

# theater simple

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*all about*

## **52 PICK UP** by TJ Dawe and Rita Bozi

*Directed by K. Brian Neel and performed by Llysa Holland & Andrew Litzky*

**A sell out in the USA and Australia:**

**Seattle's theater simple deals out something completely different!**

52 scenes about a relationship are titled, and each title is written on an ordinary deck of playing cards. At the top of the show, the cards are thrown up in the air and land on the stage, and the performance follows the order that they are arbitrarily picked up throughout the show.

An astutely intimate rollercoaster, **52 PICK UP** works like memory - not linear, but swerving from belly-busting comedy, to hysterically universal truths to quiet heartbreak in the literal drop of a card.

**52 Pick Up delights and amazes!** *Post and Courier- Charleston, South Carolina*

### **WHAT'S THE SPECIAL INTERESTING DEAL ABOUT 52 PICK UP?**

The technical format of 52 PICK UP is very unique - at the top of the show, one of the performers throws a deck of cards in the air. Each card has the title of a scene written on it, and the shape of the show is then determined by random chance as the cards are picked up throughout the show.

**\*A WORD ABOUT THE ODDS OF TWO SHOWS OF 52 PICK UP EVER BEING THE SAME:**

**Never.**

Oh - all right... - a mathematical engineer fan of ours in Seattle did the math -

**One in 80 658 175 170 943 878 571 660 636 856 403 766 975 289 505 440 883 277 824 000 00 000 000.**  
**(YIKES!!!)**

**52! ( read "52 factorial")**

Although this number is outrageously big, it is real. The formula for finding the maximum number of variations in a deck of 52 cards is  $52 \times 51 \times 50 \times 49 \times 48 \times 47 \dots$  all the way down to  $\times 3 \times 2 \times 1$ . Try it with paper and pencil. It'll be fun.

**As a point of interest, the odds of getting all 6 numbers right and thereby winning Lotto 6/49 are 1 in 10 068 347 520.**

Hmmm. The odds of winning a Lotto 6/49 are waaaaay better...

note: adult language/situations - PG-13-esque

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*...This relationship is in the cards... and the reviews are in the bag!*

"... an alluring romantic comedy - moving along at the pace of a Tarantino film ... a journey that's as predictable as a game of Russian roulette ... **DUCK! The Express** Perth, Western Australia

"During a couple of scenes, if I closed my eyes, I could almost believe I was listening to a recording from my own life. Yikes! Perfect." *The Stranger*, Seattle

**short blurbs crafted for your use! Please use!**

**50 words**

"52 PICK UP delights and amazes!" Charleston Post  
One woman + one man = a relationship  
THIS relationship /52 scenes = One deck of cards.

Each performance follows the order the cards are randomly  
picked up, swerving from belly-busting comedy to  
quiet heartbreak in the proverbial turn of a ...

(Always different!)

**80 word blurb**

From Seattle's own award-winning, internationally acclaimed theater simple. 52 'titles' about a relationship are written on an ordinary deck of playing cards and the performance follows the order that they are arbitrarily picked up throughout the show. An astutely intimate rollercoaster, 52 PICK UP works like memory - not linear, but randomly non-sequiter, gut-jumping, and cumulative, swerving from belly-busting comedy to quiet heartbreak in the literal drop of a card. Sold out runs 'Coast to Coast' in both Australia and America.

Not recommended for children under 13 (language, content).

**95 words**

... this relationship is in the cards...

Seattle's theater simple deals 52 PICK UP, an intimate 75-minute showpiece of acting, improv and human emotion. At the top of the show, the performers throw a deck of cards in the air. Each card has the title of a scene written on it, and the performance is determined by chance as the cards are picked up throughout the show, (no two shows ever alike!) swerving from belly-busting comedy to wistful poignancy in the literal turn of a card as the characters navigate through the events of their relationship.

note: adult language/situations

People are talking about theater simple's production of

## 52 PICK UP...

👉 **SOLD-OUT IN SINGAPORE! CHARLESTON! SEATTLE! PERTH! ADELAIDE!**

### 👉 **PICK OF THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FRINGE**

A Fringe gem –their comic timing is just about flawless... a theatrical adventure and no doubt one of the best the Fringe has to offer. The West Australian, **Perth, WA**

“This highly insightful and original play at the Fringe contains the spoken and unspoken fragments of what seems like the world’s relationship blueprint. It’s truly shocking how many of the lines have gone through your own head, if not passed your lips. Great fun.” **Sunday Times**, Perth

“... an alluring romantic comedy - moving along at the pace of a Tarantino film ... a journey that’s as predictable as a game of Russian roulette - remarkably impressive. Without a doubt, Litzky and Holland are two of the most animated and physically malleable theatre actors to have graced the Australian stages recently.

**DUCK! The Express** Perth, Western Australia

“52 Pick-Up has the odds in its favour - truly magical ... a Must See!  
The play is about a relationship, the good the bad, the ugly and the PISS funny  
(from the **ITA website**)

“ Real verve and intelligence –the fun of the play is in the chase rather than the outcome.”  
**The Adelaide Advertiser**

*52 Pick Up* delights and amazes!  
**Charleston Post and Courier**

“*52 Pick Up*” relies a lot on chance. And chance is a pretty good gimmick. A solid bet.  
**Seattle Times**

Probably the best in the fest. ... Polished, clean and touching..  
If you want to see great acting and great writing, this is the one to see.  
**Seattle Fringe Rag**

The simpletons have worked their magic again.  
astounding. Another star in the crown of theater simple  
**tpsonline.org**

‘Simple’ in name only - A play you should see!  
**Charleston City Paper**

... within moments, these two actors have created a bond so intimate that the audience actually cares about these hapless, bumbling lovers. During a couple of scenes, if I closed my eyes, I could almost believe I was listening to a recording from my own life. Yikes!  
Perfect show for anybody who's ever been destroyed by love.  
**The Stranger (Seattle)**



### **CRITIC'S PICK**

The West Australian, Adelaide Advertiser, 3d Radio, Charleston Post & Courier, Seattle Weekly, Seattle Times, The Stranger