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Communications Newsletter

Tallulah Dies

Creating your own reality and escaping to it when things get to be too much is something we all would probably consider given the chance. Tallulah, or Jane, does just that in *Memoir of a Mythomaniac: The True Story of a Compulsive Liar (or Tallulah Dies)*.

The play was written and directed by assistant professor of dance here at East Tennessee State University; Cara Harker. It is mix of creative dialogue and complementing dance routines.

This summer the play was accepted into the Cincinnati Fringe Festival. Harker, and the other five members of her cast, traveled to Cincinnati to perform on the Fringe stage. They left Johnson City at the end of May and stayed at the festival through June 11. According to a review on the Behind The Curtain Cincinnati website, Tallulah Dies was "Overall a solid, well-directed show, with dance that added a visual grace to the narrative."

Harker did not originally write the play specifically for the festival, but decided to apply for it. "The promo for the Cincy Fringe Fest was "Fringe. Kinda Weird. Like You." I thought, "Yes, the play is kinda weird. Maybe they'll select it" and happily, they did," says Harker.

While at the Fringe Festival, the cast's hard work paid off when *Tallulah Dies* was awarded with the 2011 Dr. Robert J. Thierauf Producer's Pick. "I was so surprised

and proud of the cast and crew when we won Producer's Pick,” says Harker. “They worked incredibly hard and I was very appreciative that we got to share the experience.”

The Cincinnati Fringe Festival is a festival that showcases artists from around the country. All types of artistic media are shared. The Fringe Festival comes originally from Edinburgh, Scotland over fifty years ago. Acting troops were invited to come perform for grounds and, over the years, grew and expanded.

Harker teaches dance at ETSU and not only wrote and directed *Tallulah Dies*, but also acted in it as well.

To view footage from *Tallulah Dies* rehearsals and scenes from the production, you may join their Facebook page.