

# Pick of the Day

Making sense of the chaos



## The Glasgow Herald

**Fish Or Man?**  
Springwell House

THREE tourists, played by Sandra Hall, Debbie Graham, and Jane McGinnes - go to Mull. By chance - and through the intervention of some Silkies - they all see more of the island than they had planned.

The story line spins back and forth from the islands past history to the present day and beyond. The history is a cyclical pattern of invasion and eviction, the present - with its underlying debate about the future of the fishing industry - is, in its own way, yet another instalment in a saga which sees man constantly exploiting the land and sea for his own immediate ends.

Every part, from visitor to herring, Silky to Viking invader, is played by the versatile cast of three and though the narrative sometimes confuses itself with rapid shifts, the performances themselves are engagingly clear and effective.

**Mary Brennan**

Evening News

## Action drama nets a winner for all ages

**DANCE AND PHYSICAL  
THEATRE: Fish-Or-Man -  
Springwell House**

THIS new work by Scottish-based Tragic Carpet Productions is a potent history of the Isle of Mull from BC to the present day.

It is also more generally a look at man's relationship with the sea.

Don't be put off by the fact that this is physical theatre. There's actually a lot of dialogue and a clear and enjoyable story here.

All three performers are accomplished comic actors and the script is packed with lots of humour and some fascinating insights into the history of the islands.

This is an adventurous, funny and highly accessible show.

And should appeal to all ages.

Until August 26, tickets £5 (£3), 346 1405. \*\*\*\*

**Paul Marshall**

The Scotsman, 22 August 1995

- ★★★★★ Kill to get a ticket
- ★★★★★ Maim to get a ticket
- ★★★★★ Get a ticket, maybe
- ★★★★★ Demand a discount
- ★★★★★ Only go if it's free

**Marine joy: Tragic Carpet trawl deep for the magical and mysterious history of Mull in Fish-or-Man**

### Fish-or-Man?

**Tragic Carpet, Springwell House**

**Theatre** ★★★★★

Tragic Carpet, a small company with an understated production, present one of the most creative and surprising performances that you are likely to see on the Fringe this year. Devised from experiences

**Brothers Of The Brush**  
Theatre Workshop, 7.45pm  
Drama about the masculine side of Dublin working-class life

**White Rabbit Cowboy**  
City Cafe, 8pm  
Vivid slice of Edinburgh life by local actors

**Hunting Humans**  
Randolph Studio, 8pm  
Frenetic play about friends and failure

**Fish-Or-Man?**  
Springwell House, 8pm  
Theatrical immersion in the myths, music and beauty of Mull

## reviews

living on the Isle of Mull, immersing themselves in its myths, sounds and physical beauty, this is a small masterpiece about the isle's rich history and the changing relationship between humans and the sea.

The isle is a magical place where rock pools pull you into their eerie depths and where fish can talk. With nothing but a blue carpet, a heap of

lobster pots and a pervasive soundtrack of lapping waves and underwater noises to set the scene, three women metamorphose into each creature and image on Mull. They are ferry stewardesses peering at the locals, selkies undulating with the sea, or the comic incarnations of local children on the beach. Every element of the performance is delightfully inventive and funny,

miming with their hands, building mesmerising pictures with their bodies, only the glum lighting and backdrop detracting from their performance. These young women are enchanting magicians of physical theatre and of excellent ensemble work who deserve to be seen.

Until 26 August

**Tanya Stephan**

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

*Fringe*