

theater

# Pardon Our Fringe

## Fringe Fest roundup: Featuring Poe, the Olsens, and the disembodied head of Sam Walton

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As the 10th annual New York International Fringe Festival heads into the homestretch, reports continue to pour in from the *Voice's* Fringe operatives on the ground. Performances continue through Sunday. You can buy tickets in person at Fringe Central (27 Mercer Street), by phone at 212-279-4488, or online at [fringenyc.org](http://fringenyc.org), where you can also find a complete schedule.

**A Small Hole**  
 Dance New Amsterdam, 280 Broadway  
 Through Thursday

Playwright Julia Jarcho's "mutation" of *Mansfield Park*, with its Sadean overlay (the Marquis's *Justine* replaces the German Romantic play *Lovers' Vows* as the internal theatrics), does its best work in showing how utterly commonplace such corseted trappings can feel: Jane Austen's problem child, as presented (a



The mirror has two faces: Heather Riordan and David Kodeski in *Letter Purloined*  
 photo: Sa Schloff

major portion of the script is taken from her text), has enough reserves of sex and politics on its own?e.g., men who believe a glass of Madeira is the fix for any female ill. The poor and virtuous Fanny spends much of the play in a box, and Elena Mulrone's portrayal goes from faintly annoying to Ibsen-level powerful in seconds. With the startlingly choreographed ball scene and its evocation of Austen's past, the performance affirms the potential for inventive transformation. **Phyllis Fong**