

What critics and audiences are saying about "Circumference" ...

“★★★★½

Every so often there comes a show that is personal, funny, poignant and touching-- a show carefully crafted to take advantage of each moment's full emotional effect, whether highs or lows. This year at the Fringe, that show would seem to be Amy Salloway's *Circumference*.

The show is about...the battle many of have against our own bodies, and against a beauty-obsessed world. It jumps between (Salloway's) past and present body issues — as a 7th-grader ostracized by her classmates, and as an adult suffering through loneliness, depression and a backwards insurance approval process to qualify for gastric bypass surgery — as **Salloway manages to offer up tales that are familiar to many without ever resorting to “poor me” tactics, even when the story has her at her lowest points.**

And boy are there low points, but even during those, there are plenty laughs to be had. Salloway especially manages to inject comedy into some cringe-inducing moments involving her Grade 7 gym teacher, who routinely singles the poor 12-year-old out in front of her fellow classmates.

As a performer, Salloway is tireless, and delightful, with range and comedic timing to boot.

Along the way, through the humiliation and name-calling, *Circumference* leads to some semblance of self-acceptance that avoids coming off as flabby, tired cliché.”

-- *The Calgary Sun*

“MUST-SEE: Salloway is a major-league writer and storyteller - poignant, sensitive and hysterically funny. Jewels of observation and awareness become transformative moments, and no audience can come away untouched by the gift of her experience.”

-- *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“...a hilariously frantic performance and a well-crafted script with a strong emotional centre. Roundly charming and cleverly filled out, most people will burn more than a few calories laughing along with *Circumference*.”

-- *Monday Magazine, Victoria BC*

“A-LIST: Salloway has a gift for detail, a technician's skill with words, and a dead-on instinct for finding humor where others might mine only darkness.”

— *City Pages (Minneapolis)*

“★★★★ Salloway is a charming performer, and assumes the quirky characters of her story easily - in particular, the spazzy junior high friend and the Super America clerk with the accent straight out of *Fargo*. She gives a high energy performance that spreads to the audience.”

-- *Uptown Magazine, Winnipeg*

“Top Five Fringe Shows Not To Miss: “Circumference”

– *Calgary Herald*

“★★★★★ Salloway is **simply an amazing thinker, writer and performer, truly one-of-a-kind**. I've loved her previous shows, but she really ups the emotional ante on this one -- such a heartbreakingly personal hour that you almost feel like you're eavesdropping rather than watching a stage show. **She seamlessly weaves humor and despair without ever going for cheap laughs or maudlin sentimentality.** “
-- *MN Fringe Audience Review*

“Salloway is a **smart, engaging performer and her confessional is both heartbreaking and very funny**, including testy exchanges with her own body, personified as a chain-smoking hedonist with attitude.”
-- *The Valley Advocate, Great Barrington, MA*

“★★★★★ ‘Circumference’ **cleverly uses humor and a whole lot of energy** to delve into fat stereotypes, the haunting influence of a junior high school gym class and a unique way to get an extra serving of vegetables. ...**Extremely relatable** for anyone who dislikes something about their body, and the **near full house on opening night proved women’s body issues can also make the men in the crowd laugh.**”
-- *CBC Manitoba*

“★★★★★ Salloway is that rarity, **an equally talented writer and performer... hilarious, honest, and unsparing, with a great sense of pace.**”
– *Calgary Herald*

“There seems to be at least one of these shows at every Fringe, but **don’t write this one off as the usual exercise (or lack thereof) in anger and self-pity**. Salloway is **charmingly funny as she flashes between her past memories as a fat, gym-challenged kid and her present efforts to get gastric bypass surgery.**”
-- *Edmonton Journal*

“★★★★★ **A funny, yet thoughtful, exploration of society's attitudes toward obesity**. Salloway... makes **lightning-fast transformations in speech and body language as she segues from one character to the next**. And she **keeps a close eye out for the comical** as the story moves between Amy's trials in junior high gym class and her weight-loss efforts years later. **Her greatest accomplishment in Circumference is entertaining her audience while also educating them about a serious subject.**”
-- *Edmonton Sun*

“In the Age of Oprah, weight problems are well-trodden subject matter; however, **Salloway’s brave, eccentric performance is more than enough to keep you audience engaged.**”
-- *SEE Magazine*

“Amy is **an assured performer, a natural comic who can find hope and humor in the same human space as shame and disappointment**. She tells the whole

story, including details that will make you laugh, cringe and blush, and manages to convey it all in a way that makes you feel like she's talking to you over a cup of coffee.”

-- *MN Fringe Blogger Caitlin Gilmet*

“★★★★ *Circumference* is all about how Salloway gets her life and her body back even as her plan to have gastric bypass surgery goes awry. **It's smart, funny, and most importantly, honest.** You can almost see her brain working towards a punch line as she tells us one of her fat horror stories, and then, at the last moment, going, oh, I'll just write the truth instead.”

-- *Calgary Herald*

“★★★★★ Salloway **switches between characters with ease,** and her use of minimal props and adult language and situations make for **a well-rounded show with a straight-forward narrative that entertains throughout.**

The comedy in *Circumference* works because it's real. Salloway's show is an in-depth portrait -- from being the slowest girl in gym class to being an adult with such low self-confidence she sleeps in crumbs -- of a woman and her quest to make it up Confidence Hill amid societal pressure and her own self-loathing.”

-- *Victoria Times-Colonist*

“**Dynamite...there's more content in this play than any others this reviewer has seen combined.** Salloway gives a dead-on performance of a woman whose body shape is at odds against her love life, ability to make friends in school, and her gym teacher. **Funny and touching, *Circumference* is what a play should be.**”

-- *The Halifax Coast*

“★★★★ The night before I saw *Circumference*, I asked some volunteers what their favorite shows so far had been and one said, '*Circumference*--but it's about women's body image issues, so I don't know how much guys would be into it.'

Memo to volunteer: guys invented women's body image issues. And we have a few of our own as well.

Circumference **pulled a full house** Monday, and it was an equal divide between guys and women. **There was no divide between who was laughing, though: that would be everyone lucky enough to be at the show.**”

-- *The Calgary Herald*