

NOLA DEFENDER

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(Yet More) Views from the Fringe N.O. Fringe Fest, Day 3: Reviews

Feel the Power of the Dork Side

Dr. Pete Ludovice is an MIT Ph.D. that currently teaches at the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. When the title says “dork side”, that’s exactly what it means.

Statistical mechanics is the study of properties of matter in equilibrium and applies probability theory or statistical inference to large populations. Someone turned this into a theatrical performance. **Dr. Pete’s one-man show is part stand-up, part statistics, part song and all incredibly smart.** He uses comedy to explain scientific Gaussian distribution, the Bell curve, random error, distribution deviation, Six Sigma, and other highly esoteric subjects you may have never heard of. But his subject matter isn’t only science. He tells stories about being a husband and father and breaks out into a parody of Aerosmith’s “Janie’s Got a Gun”, singing “Daddy’s Got a Gun”. He discusses nerds and relationships and breaks down the patented advanced algorithm used by eHarmony.com, about which a lot of single nerds have likely wondered.

There are a few “costume changes”, but mostly his set consists of a slide deck with graphs, formulas and pictures. Having a limited sound and A/V setup, the show was without any technical issues. The roughly ten-person audience was tragically small for how good this show is. After the performance, all audience members stayed to talk to him and some even walked away with free pocket protectors.

This show only has one more performance left in the festival. Check out Dr. Pete tonight (Nov 19) at 9 p.m. at the Backyard Ballroom (3519 St. Claude Ave). -*Champ Superstar*

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Jordan Fink Photography