

## New York International Fringe Festival Reviews

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### PIERCED!

reviewed by Amy Heath Bell

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This page contains reviews of some of the productions in the 2002 New York International Fringe Festival.

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Written in verse, Ginna Hoben's *pierced!*, a modern adaptation of the Greek myth "Atalanta and the Golden Apples," quickly wins you over with its heart, intelligence and ability to combine ancient Greece with a modern rhythm and feel, using everything from rock and roll to "Ave Maria." Atalanta's father demands that she get married and breed a son to replace him on the throne. However, the oracles have decreed that Atalanta, the fastest runner in the land, remain unmarried or she will be "a captive all her days." A deal is struck whereby any man who can beat Atalanta in a foot race may have her hand in marriage, but if she wins the race, she kills her opponent. With the intervention of the goddess Aphrodite, Atalanta finds herself running against Hippomenes. Torn between her love for Hippomenes and a desire to maintain her independence Atalanta must choose whether to win or lose the race.

The conflict in *pierced!* centers around the search for the answer to the age-old question, "how do you love someone completely and still hold on to who you are and what makes you unique?" Ginna Hoben's journey to answer this as author and actress is a funny, touching, action packed ride. As Atalanta, whether she's running the race of her life or being drugged by the powers of a goddess into a surprising dance of new love, Hoben truly wears her heart on her sleeve allowing her emotions to play over not only her face, but her entire body. She has a beautiful voice that fully commands her space and enriches the text.

Tony Speciale's directing is sharp and creative, using fabric, lights, and one simple set piece to create beautiful pictures and continually move the show forward. Joanna Buckner's lighting design makes great use of the small space. It's always a joy to see what truly creative people can do with good material, especially on a small budget. *pierced!* is a wonderful example of that ingenuity.