



Find out What Happened to Jeff

By ELISSA BARNARD Arts Reporter | At The Fringe

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At first everything appears normal — too normal.

Jeff Onore is in a black suit and tie with a crisp white shirt. He looks like a businessman kidnapped by the Atlantic Fringe Festival.

When he sits placidly in front of a microphone, he starts talking about the day he got divorced.

Slowly and subtly this story veers into a wild tale about being a driver for a movie star chimp on a journey from New England to Los Angeles. "I like her," Onore says dryly.

Each story the Newbury, Mass., performer tells in his show, What Happened to Jeff?, starts out ordinarily — seeing an old girlfriend, visiting his mother, finding a childhood box of crayons — then corkscrews into the odd, the lonely and the addictive.

Onore's completely straightforward, expressionless delivery increases the startling, and often very imaginative, black humour.

What Happened to Jeff?, which took top honours at the 2008 New England Fringe Festival, has the structure of a stand-up routine that moves easily from topic to topic and ends in an unsettling, surreal story. Underlying Onore's material is a pervading and profound sense of urban loneliness. This unusual 40-minute show is not suitable for children.

Fringe updates: Vern and Gregory's show today at 6:40 is cancelled. Instead, it runs at 7:20 p.m. in the Imperial Room, Neptune Theatre. Wit and Wordplay of Wales is Sunday, 3:20 p.m. at the Imperial. Cancelled shows are Mud Blood & Honey and Saints Alive! Sings: Past, Present and Future (whose show times are replaced by Leslie Carvery's Selena, Death After Life. For updates go to: www.atlanticfringe.ca.

By Elissa Barnard Today, 5:30 and 9:30 p.m., Living Room, 2353 Agricola St., near Woodill