

Jaggers moves things along until, eventually, Pip and Estella have the chance to break free of those controlling their fates.

SALLY STOTT

Until 15 August. Today 4:10pm.

**DANCE, PHYSICAL
THEATRE & CIRCUS
HOTEL PARADISO**
PLEASANCE COURTYARD
(VENUE 33)

★★★★★

IT'S a source of never-ending wonder that masks can convey such a myriad of human emotions. During this masterful 75-minute show not a single word is spoken nor a facial muscle exercised. Yet everything from love to grief, sexual desire to horror is expressed.

Berlin-based physical theatre company Familie Flöz has had more than 20 years to perfect the art of masked performance, and perfect it they have. There's not a gesture, bodily movement or tilt of the head that doesn't communicate something, all precisely timed for maximum effect.

Familie Flöz has described

Hotel Paradiso as "a cross between Fawlty Towers and the Bates Motel", which is pretty much spot on. Run by a brother and sister team (although that's far from what they are), with help from their elderly mother, this 4-star accommodation has seen better days. Presumably when their late father was at the helm – now he only looks down disappointedly from a portrait.

On the day we join them, the hotel is visited by a series of challenges, each more outlandish than the last. Guests check in (or try to), deliveries are made, food is prepared and crimes are committed.

The *Fawlty Towers* reference is present throughout. Not only does the brother resemble Basil Fawlty (fawning over attractive guests, ineptitude in the face of emergency, ill treatment of the bellboy), but many of the TV show's storylines are alluded to here. The *Psycho* reference is clear too, but with a whole different vibe. Knives do indeed come out, but there's none of the Norman Bates menace here – even the most macabre moments have us laughing out

loud. For a bit of fun, don't do any research before the show and try to work out how many of these remarkable performers play the siblings, parents, guests, maid, chef and various cameo roles, then see if you're correct at the curtain call. You may not want to check in to Hotel Paradiso for your holiday, but for a Fringe afternoon, it's one of the best residences in town.

KELLY APTER

UNTIL 31 August. Today 3:15pm.

**CHILDREN'S SHOWS
EEJITS AND HISSY
FITS**

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING
CENTRE (VENUE 30A)

★★★

THERE are rows of empty seats, but only because the parents and kids are all sitting at the front on the floor, enthralled by natural storyteller Fiona Herbert's subversive twist on traditional fairy tales and their underlying messages. There are, she explains, a lot of "eejits" out there, and whether they're giants threatening those that are smaller than themselves, or a king trying