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**Martin Seager – Writer's Block**



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## Edinburgh Festival Fringe Reviews

### **Spend Spend Spend** Tempo Musical Productions

**St Oswald's Hall** Reviewed August 17th

I have directed, produced and MD'd "Spend Spend Spend" on numerous occasions and I have to admit it is one of my favourite musicals. So as you can imagine I was very excited when I found out I was going to be reviewing Viv Nicholson's "rags to riches to rags" story (by Steve Brown and Justin Greene). Spend is a beautiful musical, well crafted and when it opened it seemed to break the then current model of musical theatre. It is now one of the most performed musicals on the amateur circuit and is definitely worth checking out if you have not seen it. If you decide to see Tempo's version you will not be disappointed. In fact I think you might well be over whelmed. Tempo provide us with a full band, a massive ensemble, some very clever direction and one of the most ingenious uses of multi media I have ever seen at the festival. In fact the entire back drop is created by images projected on the set and some clever use of live camera work. It is quite the norm for "clever sets" to take away the audiences eye from the real action, and at times in this production it almost did. However, the outstanding performances of Norma Kinnear (Old Viv), Gabrielle Pavonne (Young Viv) Dougie Arbuckle (George) and Colin Cairncross (Keith) keep your attention from wondering to far away to the spectacular imagery of the staging. This is not an easy show to perform, but the cast did extremely well and should be congratulated. This is a show I would urge any one to go and see and certainly is the most spectacular I have seen at the Fringe this year.

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