

# San Diego Union-Tribune

**Review: Pared-down San Diego International Fringe Festival reveals some early gems**

By Pam Kragen  
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Todd Blakesley stars in "Crapshoot! Or Why I Voted for Trump: A Love Story!" at the 2019 San Diego International Fringe Festival in Balboa Park. (Courtesy of Ron Logan)

## **"Crapshoot! Or Why I Voted for Trump: A Love Story" by Todd Blakesley**

Two years after San Diego writer/actor Todd Blakesley workshopped this comic solo play in 2017 with the Roustabouts Theatre Co., it has made its world premiere at Fringe. It's part absurdist comedy and part call to action, since Blakesley ends each

performance with a discussion in the lobby on how to make America great again in more legislative than cult-of-personality ways. Blakesley stars as Al Stone, an idealistic if not-too-bright fortune cookie company shipping clerk. Eager to see a shakeup in America, Stone falls hard for Donald Trump and is elated by his election. But Stone's tweets and good cheer infuriate co-workers and he's sent to an anger management class filled with grieving Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders fans who fiercely turn on him. Stone loses his job, becomes a professional clown and somehow catches the attention of Trump when he conceives a border wall scheme that will pay for itself. The play starts well and quite amusingly as the audience gets to know Stone, but the second half of the play needs more laughs and focus. **Critic's Choice.** *Remaining performances: 7:30 p.m. June 13 and 16. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre.* [toddblakesley.com](http://toddblakesley.com)