

The Guitar Teacher

Randy Rutherford Presents—Ex. Comm. Church

Master storyteller Randy Rutherford, of San Francisco, returns with the intriguing tale of his move to Anchorage, Alaska.

As a very naive and shy 21-year-old, Rutherford learns to become a musician—and learns the complex ways of love—from a gifted guitar teacher who continually confounds Randy with his words and his puzzling relationships with three women, one of whom Randy finds himself drawn to.

Randy endears himself to his audience by fully expressing his naivete as a young man. He further captivates with his talent for description—to the smallest detail—drawing his listeners completely into the story, allowing your mind to picture settings and characters. He also delights by sprinkling his 90 minutes with the songs of the times, accompanying himself on guitar.

Randy has a skill for imbuing the simplest scenes from his life with vitality, excitement, and humour. And when the story begins to twist and turn with complexity—as it does in the last half of *The Guitar Teacher*—Randy has you on the edge of your seat, joining him as he tries to figure things out.

This particular venue is not entirely suitable for a performer like Randy. It's a cavernous room with poor acoustics, and external sounds penetrate easily, as they did Wednesday night (with sirens at one point). But Randy adapts to the conditions, and even injects a humorous moment or two in aside as he did when interrupted by the sirens. Word of advice: the further back you sit, the closer attention you will have to pay to his words, but it's worth the effort.

Robin Chase

When Harry Met Harry

flaming locomotive prods.—Playhouse Studio

Great production of a great script. We see three aspects of Harry's life: as a lost little boy, as a for-



photo by James Firby

Those alien eyes...glowing...throbbing...can our own Men in Black save the Midnight Cabaret?

lorn suitor on the subway, and as a pencil-necked office worker.

I loved *The Good Thief* last year, and from now on I will try to see anything this actor does. There seemed to be a larger play trying to get out, though; I'd have been happy to see one more iteration of all three lives.

Kevin Longfield

Caught in the Act

The Company—Son of Warehouse

In this play, two characters sit in bed after a supposed tryst and wait to see what happens next.

We quickly realize that these characters are just that: characters in a play waiting for the next rewrite.

With absolutely no disrespect to this show, it's a concept we have seen before, from Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* to Warner

Brothers cartoons. The trick is to make the concept your own and to do something interesting with it. To a certain extent playwright Bruce Kane succeeds.

He's given his characters some funny lines to say, and the scenes where the playwright takes over the action really sparkle. Taken as a whole, though, the play seems a little flat, and at times the male character, who is supposed to be the clued-out one, seems to know things his character shouldn't.

Ashley Toews and Brad Weiler gave polished performances and displayed a lot of charm onstage.

I also have to say that the opening "Instructions to the Audience" scene didn't work for me, either as a piece of writing or as a part of the overall production.

Kevin Longfield

all the best!
to the **fringe & the jenny**



George Hickes
MLA for Point Douglas
944-8379

ISAAC KESSLER KEN HALL
2-MAN NO-SHOW

★★★★★
A CRITIC'S CHOICE AWARD
-MONTREAL

VENUE #10
PLANETARIUM
AUDITORIUM

190 RUPERT
AVE.

LAUGHING CANNOT BEHOLD
-BY THE FOUR FRIGATE FESTIVAL

PHOTOGRAPHY FROM
SCENE 10 SHOW
HOW TO BE MODERN
FAMILY

"HILARIOUS...
EASILY RIVALS
ANYTHING
CURRENTLY ON
LATE-NIGHT TV"
-MOM

★★★★★
A CRITIC'S CHOICE AWARD
-THE MOUNTAIN

StarBach's: The Coffee Cantata

delightfully fun
deliciously
decadent
and suitable
for all ages!
Venue #20

A musical by
J. S. Bach

