

The Good, The Bad, and The Stupid

Pi: The Physical Comedy Troupe—Alloway Hall

This troupe is a San Francisco-based company, which, for this show, consisted of a quartet of three men and one woman.

In *The Good, The Bad, and the Stupid*, they were coordinated in a number of ways throughout their performance: from impeccable physical timing in a number of skits, to intricate and fast-paced juggling hand-offs in others, to all wearing clothing in the colors red, white, and black.

Much of the show consisted of wordless comedy, with some Mr. Bean-like grunts expressing sentiments that were already being more than adequately expressed physically.

Some of the best skits include one where a couple were fighting over an apple and then end up dancing; a macho contest that involved two audience members and various strange challenges, including yelling the longest; and the final one, which commenced with the female member saying, "This stage ain't big enough for us. Let's settle this like men," followed by the four characters ending up in a slow-motion battle, beautifully choreographed to the song "Hallelujah, It's Raining Men".

A few of the skits were weaker, like the one of the man who sleeps standing up, and ends up fighting with his pillow, and another one with two of the performers dancing while wearing white hoodies enclosing balls above their heads.

The show I attended was a real hoot for the audience, who laughed at regular intervals throughout the proceedings.

Konrad Antony

The Good, The Bad, and The Stupid was playful, silly, and very funny. The troupe consists of four clowns: The "star of the show" and general straight-man; the sometimes bashful, sometimes over-the-top fuzzy "strongman"; the mostly mute one that I can only imagine represents the "stupid" in the title; and the overzealous, dramatic and affectionate one.

Each has strengths that are showcased very well. The write-up for the show promises high-speed horse races, incredible acrobatics, and duels-to-the-overly-dramatic-death.

This San Francisco-based clown troupe delivers in a very clever way. Throw in some clever flash-

light and pillow use and, despite some juggling flubs, and what seemed like tacked-on audience participation, you have one hell of a good time.

Eric Rae

Donkey Derby

Little Green Hat—Playhouse Studio

Tess McManus plays Mary in this one-woman show about a young Irish woman whose family has entered her into the town's annual Donkey Derby. The prize? A golden turnip! Trouble is, the derby is simply fodder for the town drunks' amusement, and Mary experiences incapacitating social anxiety. To try and work through her anxiety, she talks to her donkey.

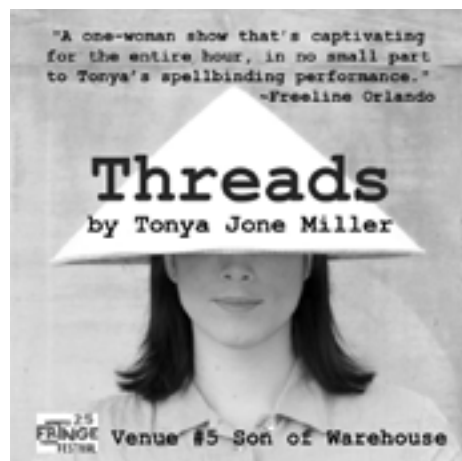
McManus is funny, compelling, and at times childlike. As she rambles on, we find out that she's not only anxious about the Donkey Derby, but about living in her small town in Northern Ireland where fighting between the north and south still continues. She reveals her strong desire for peace both in Ireland and within herself (she's too nervous to go out and participate in the Derby!).

Ultimately, Mary puffs up enough courage to go out and participate in the derby, despite her shyness and fears.

Emily Ternette

This one started out in the dark, where Tess McManus was hiding from the hordes who were seeking her out to take part in the local donkey derby. This sweet Irish colleen proceeds to tell her story to the donkey, Percy, with whom she is paired for the race.

She explains her love of animals and the unpleasant fact that they are food most of the time.



She tells stories of a love interest in the eccentric Murphy Donovan, and of her irritating family who got her into this donkey derby even though she suffers from social anxiety, preferring animals to people. She also shares haunting stories of her Irish heritage and of Belfast. In the end, she has a confidante and a friend in Percy the donkey, to help her overcome the embarrassment of donkey derby.

Kevin Campbell

The Fat Guy Show

The Baggy Pants—Planetarium

Christopher Bange brings us a clown love story. A dual plot involves sad sack Mr. Fluffy the Clown's two greatest desires—to be the greatest magician in the world, and to lose enough weight to win the woman of his dreams.

I won't tell you how he makes out, but volunteer at your own risk. Our show's poor volunteer, Rachel, had to work her behind off!

The tricks are great and Chris is mega-talented (and also in the sell-out, *Sherlock Holmes*).

Lisa Campbell

Wanted, If Not Wed

Zinnia Productions—Cinematheque

"Marriage and family are two things we can't do alone"

The play investigates the thoughts and lives of women of all ages who find themselves single. Some are content, some not, most are bewildered, and all are played by the same talented woman.

The time flew by and I was entertained every minute. Each character was well-developed and unique. A great way to spend an enjoyable hour. Recommended.

Lisa Campbell

