



# OFF the Record

Issue #4 - Tuesday, June 20th, 2006

## Audience Reviews

### Chinese Clown Cabaret

Jane Chen  
Arts Court Theatre

As we walked out, a woman commented, "My face hurts from smiling!" Jane and her mom Tair are a great team. Absolutely brilliant show. Damn, now I have to choose between CCC and Québécois for best of venue. Go see this. Bring your mom.

-Ruthanne Edward

### Chinese Clown Cabaret

Jane Chen  
Arts Court Theatre

This is the best show I've seen in a long time. Jane Chen manages to be melodramatic, self-effacing and completely adorable. Both she and her mother kept blurting out the most unexpected and ridiculous things. The audience ate it right up. So good!

-Melissa Gruber

### head/case

Punchbag Playhouse  
Academic Hall

Head Case has one of those plots that could be resolved in 5 minutes if the characters would just talk to each other. Instead, they scream at each other to draw attention away from the gaping holes in the plot. Mr. Hemphill, are we supposed to find torture funny? Nancy Kenny is the lone bright spot trying her best with poor material and overacting cast-mates (someone needs to tell Matthew Stetiuk he's not as good an actor as he thinks he is).

-Anonymous Reviewer

### Nevil

Monika Productions  
Arts Courty Library

Fantastic. So much emotion. What a wonderful experience. Thank you.

-Anonymous Reviewer

### Québécois

Pennyworthy Productions  
Arts Court Theatre

Wow! The intricacy of the language(s) was a wonder to behold. What a challenge to take beautiful and exacting words and do more than just read them aloud. The power of spoken poetry mixed with the incredible presence of the performers. The casting alone was a Herculean feat. Jessica Ruano and her cast should be proud.

-Rusty Priske

### Can't Get Started

Black Sheep Theatre  
Mercury Lounge

It was very witty and hilarious. Awesome dialogue. The two actors played well off each other. I forgot it was a play – it was like watching two people have a conversation. It showed the nerd in all of us!

-Anonymous Reviewer

### Can't Get Started

Black Sheep Theatre  
Mercury Lounge

The title of this play is just asking for a bad review. Obviously the playwright, Tom X. Chao, "can't get started" on writing a decent script, so instead he wrote this angst ridden, pretentious, existentialist mess of a play that crudely portrays one character's troubles with relationships and writing: can we say autobiography? A writer should not write about writing unless he's, say, Tom Stoppard. On a more positive note, the Mercury Lounge has very comfortable couches.

-Droplet of Mercury



More Reviews on Reverse

Thank you to the following Fringe Sponsors:



**Flamenco Con Fusion**

Ricardo Garcia's Flamenco Flow  
Arts Court Theatre

Positively beautiful: guitar, drums (well a guy with a box), dancing, and song. This is not a play, but it is a theatrical experience. The audience was on its feet at the end. Man, I love Spaniards.

-Droplet of Mercury

**Flamenco Con Fusion**

Ricardo Garcia's Flamenco Flow  
Arts Court Theatre

Wow! Come in off the hot street and travel to hot, hot Spain. Flamenco guitar, flamenco dancer and a cool dude playing a box. Really. Brilliant playing, hot dancer. Need a brain break from all that text? Go see this!

-Ruthanne Edward

**The Man Who Went to Work One Day and Got Eaten By a Bear**

Gruppo Rubato  
Café Alt

It is incredibly difficult to mix poignancy and humor, which they tried to do in the second play. Still, even if the pathos didn't always hit home, the humor always did, especially in the first play. Well worth the watch.

-Rusty Priske

**The Man Who Went to Work One Day and Got Eaten By a Bear**

Gruppo Rubato  
Café Alt

The second piece reminded me of Better Living by George F. Walker. Father comes home, unexpectedly, to his estranged family. Both pieces were completely absurd and just funny enough to pull it all off. Very creative.

-Melissa Gruber

**Changing Faces of Adrev**

Verda Rochon  
Studio Léonard-Beaulne

I found this to be a very brave, skillful piece of performance art. Ardev is not afraid to expose herself – put what and who she is “out there” for the audience. Her vulnerability and openness is an inspiration to look at ourselves and express ourselves. A must-see for anyone introspective.

-Anonymous Reviewer

**Off My Wavelength**

Rick Cousins  
Arts Court Library

Quirky, entertaining, interactive piece. I didn't catch all the references, but had a few laughs and appreciated the effort. Worth checking out.

-Anonymous Reviewer

i

S.O.S.  
Academic Hall

I really enjoyed this show which physically interpreted things from everyday life, bringing entertaining, yet provoking images. Was it “i” for imagery? You have to find out for yourself how this wonderful cast grabs your attention.

-Guy

**Thirsty for Your Skin**

mutatis mutandis  
Arts Court Theatre

I saw a show last fall called “Freedom is Relative” that resembled, at best, a news report. “Thirsty for Your Skin” though also based on the Maher Arar affair, far exceeds it in every way. In the style of interpretive dance, the cast tells the story of two people separated for the “good of the nation.” Lisa Twardowska, the creator and a performer, is a master of movement, emotion and song. The production was concise, sensual, and I could have watched a second hour.

-Droplet of Mercury

**Cassandra**

A+ Productions  
Studio Léonard-Beaulne

Briana Brown's magnificent journey through the days leading to Cassandra Smith's tenth birthday is both hilarious, and remarkably touching. A must see.

-Michael Mullin

**You Too Can Be A Critic**

Did you discover a hidden gem? Find out the play everyone wants to see is a fraud?? Let people know by writing your own review. You can find OFF the Record forms and drop-boxes at each venue with which to spill the beans, or send your reviews to mgruber11@hotmail.com.

Prefer to be a gossip columnist? Feel free to write in your crazy stories as well.

We may edit for spelling, swears and occasionally, length.

