

clancy productions, inc.

Fatboy

by John Clancy

synopsis

Fatboy is a brutal comedy. A live-action Punch and Judy show, a fast-moving, shocking, profane, dead-on funhouse mirror reflection of the world today. The characters are over-sized, the plot line fantastic and the language swoops from melodramatic grandeur to brute obscenity and back within the turning of a phrase.

awards

- WINNER: EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE FIRST 2004

production history

- Originally produced at The Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2004, with: Mike McShane as Fatboy, Nancy Walsh as Fudgie, Jody Lambert as mailman, innocent, piano player and Minister of Justice, Matt Oberg as Tenant, Prosecutor and Slave, and Dave Calvitto as Judge and Minister of Finance.
- Produced in Spring 2006 at the Soho Think Tank. The role of Fatboy played by Del Pentecost (Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?, Starved, Kingdom Hospital).

press quotes

"...highly entertaining...knockabout satire...John Clancy's absurdist indictment of the American appetite for power, violence and generally more of everything...directed with a carnival barker's love of the grand gesture...brazen..daring...a roaring performance by Del Pentecost...a comedy that in the end, demands that you stop laughing." Jason Zinoman - The New York Times

"...very entertaining...and not just a little bit scary...Monty Python on speed with no censorial hand in sight...Brecht on speed. It's not just compelling, it's spooky. FATBOY is a play about laughing all the way to our mass destruction. Clancy is an authentic revolutionary poking and prodding at institutions theatrical and political in hopes of making his audience jump out of their comfort zone." Martin Denton - nytheatre.com

"Make room for FATBOY. Meaner than Stalin, hungrier than Idi Amin, deadlier than Pol Pot, he is the grotesque composite of every despot who ever lived...he is also savagely funny. Playwright-director John Clancy has supersized Alfred Jarry's Ubu Roi, but aside from a few winking topical references, he recreates the original anarchic spirit...Some plays ridicule their audience: others inspire political action. FATBOY may be the rare

work that does both. Not bad for a farce that spends most of its 75 minutes stage time on broad slapsitck and sex gags." Jorge Morales - Village Voice

"John Clancy;s update of Jarry...has other tricks up its muddy, blood-spattered sleeve...a deeply nasty bit of vaudeville...savage..grimly comic...shocking...employs comedy as a blunt weapon...Clancy sets you up for belly laughs, then sucker punches you in the gut." Adam Feldman - TimeOut NY

"...a good deal of broad fun... a burlesque in which the clowns are also the strippers...another appealing example of Clancy's nastily rewarding brand of theater." David Finkle - Theatermania

"Scatological, scabrous and scandalous, John Clancy's FATBOY commands the power to shock...the kind of frontal assault the younger audiences want to see, and from their reaction at The Ohio Theater, they are getting their money's worth." Victor Gluck - Backstage

"Looking for an intelligent, imaginative AND entertaining at the theater? This is it!" Virginia Glynn - OFFOFFOFF.com

For the Edinburgh production 2004:

"John Clancy...who has wowed Edinburgh in the past with such shows as Americana Absurdum knows exactly what he wants from all three plays, Ubu the King, Ubu Cuckolded and Ubu in Chains, but then takes them a long way to create this high-octane, profanity studded and vicious assault... performances so far over the top that they are half way down the other side... A splendid grand guignol pantomime...McShane is given excellent support from a terrific cast, notably Nancy Walsh as Mrs. Fatboy. Clancy gives them a text of implausibly orotund language to play with... This is going to be a big hit." (The Times)

"...a romp - a great,vulgar cartoonish satire on the state of America, featuring a dazzling central performance from Mike McShane" (Sunday Times)

"John Clancy's satire on America's insatiable appetites, where the population gobbles pork chops, sex and consumer durables while the government gobbles up small nations is big, broad and brash...a zany Punch and Judy show" (The Guardian)

"a 70-minute blitzkrieg in three acts...an impressively unrestrained production" (The Financial Times)

"another shocker, this time a marvelously larky, appallingly tasteless one...Clancy provides a production that's obscene, ferocious and ridiculously puerile. And the humor is black, black, black. (Time Out London)

"Fatboy is one of the must-see productions at this year's Fringe...a tremendously funny piece of scabrous comedy...a brutal new comedy from the award-winning team behind Americana Absurdum, Horse Country and Cincinnati. This is a fast-moving, shocking, profane, hilarious fun-house mirror reflection of the world today. (Edinburgh Evening News)

"Fatboy is played by Mike Mcshane in a world-class piece of grotesque acting. His presence in Edinburgh, in this brilliant new piece written and staged by leading New York fringe director John Clancy, hauls into the open the nightmare image of America as an all-consuming, all-destroying great baby of a nation...This is brilliant political satire, hitting the zeitgeist right where it hurts, and meshing that with the frustrated yearning for international law and justice...a groundbreaking piece of American absurdism...an important theatrical moment, powerfully marked by McShane's towering performance." (The Scotsman)

"revivifies the idea of agit prop in such a manner as no-one in their right senses could deny it's relevance to modern theatre...the mad grotesquerie of this piece...is bizarre yet very real, a stunning effect, and something which is added to by the universally splendid cast of five. The astonishing timing, so precise and complete, is a testament to the experience and artistic verve of the Americana Absurdum folks." (The List)

"John Clancy's new version of Ubu comes on like a dubiously stained pop-up book, belching its way into life

with a grotesque runaway fury...this is pantomime at its most vicious.” (The Herald)

“He is Berkoff writ fat...Relishing in the excellent, corrosive script, McShane gives a masterclass performance as the man who is the self-selecting, brutally self-perpetuating master class himself.” (The Independent)

“marvelously anarchic and scabrous new play...packed with big, silly moments...Everything is game for derision...sheer overblown degenerateness”
(The Stage)

“This is satire at its best: black, sharp and brutal”
(The Guardian Edinburgh Festival Guide Magazine)

“John Clancy’s satirical slice of vaudeville vulgarity is the blessed bastard child of Samuel Beckett and South Park. It is obscene comic poetry of a gorgeously new and starkly different kind...were it a party guest it would have its balls out and be swinging from the chandeliers, raging at the world with demented self-importance and unerring eloquence...It’s brash, it’s silly, it’s self-referential and it’s built on a corpse-mountain of comedy stooges...there’s a sly intelligent edge beneath all the blubber and bellowing.” (Fest)

“A pummeling comedy that will leave you punch drunk” (Scotland on Sunday)

production information

Cast of 5.

72 minutes. No intermission.

Minimum stage size 20’ feet deep by 20’ feet wide. Venue must have wing space, spotlight and piano.
Involved tech needs. One day load-in.

images



