

SATURDAY JAN 22



REVUE SCENE SOUNDS SIGHTS SCHEDULE

SIGHTS ///

Monday, 27 December 2010 21:16

Happy Holy Days: Holy Jolly Holiday Hell

Written by Emma Kat Richardson

font size | [Print](#) | [E-mail](#) | [Be the first to comment!](#)

Rate this item (0 votes)

< January 2011 >

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

[Add an Event](#) [This Week's Events](#)



Much has been said about the role religion continues (or discontinues) to play in the onslaught of the holiday season. How relevant, really, can the story of the nativity or the miracle of Chanukah be when compared to flying, deer-like animals, singing snowmen, and presents without dogmatic penance? Of course, this theme has been dissected, examined, and explored with equal parts sincere tenacity and ironic distance, but perhaps none have managed to do it so philosophically electric as MSU's premier Department of Theatre production, *Happy Holy Days*.

"I started this play while trapped at my parent's home with no Internet over Christmas of last year," said the play's writer-director Rob Roznowski. "I was compelled to write it because as the holidays neared, I was filled with both dread and comfort of our traditional celebration: Alcohol, prayers and tears. I kept examining how the secular and religious elements of this and all holidays kept blending and how the religious aspects had been so commercialized that people forgot why the celebration began in the first place."

It was an examination that turned up a number of interesting finds, including inspiration from a Bronner's "Stocking for Jesus" (you'll have to hit up the play and check out the first scene to find out what we're talking about), the reality of one's dynamic system of belief, and why atheists are entitled to an equal slice of the holiday pie, too.

"I am a fundamental atheist. Rigid in my beliefs to a fault," Roznowski said. "So it only makes sense that my point of view is in there. I also have deep respect for the aspects of religion I do like including community and comfort. The cast and designers all have their beliefs as well and they influence every element of the production. I think the play is both respectful and irreverent. It is a tough balancing act."

But balance it does, and in a beautiful, provocative web of meditative thought on a subject perhaps nobody suspected would have any clandestine properties left.

"The message I intend is that questioning religion and tradition gives you an ultimately deeper sense of personal celebration,"

Happy Holy Days

Auditorium Arena Theatre, East Lansing
 Jan. 25-30, show times at 2, 7:30 and 8 p.m.
 \$8
whartoncenter.com, (517) 432-2000

Be at the center of the excitement in Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

Mt. Pleasant, MI
 888.7.EAGLE.7 • SoaringEagleCasino.com

RON WHITE
 FOR MATURE AUDIENCE
 SATURDAY, APRIL 2

CELEBRATE WITH A GIFT CARD!
 Available online or at the box office

Celebration! Cinema

Roznowski said. "The ways in which we celebrate should be personal and by blindly celebrating without deeper reflection we lose the true sense of what holidays are about. Not just a time to get together, but a time to reflect."

Last modified on Monday, 03 January 2011 21:34

Read 31 times | Like this? Tweet it to your followers!

Published in Theatre

Social sharing

More in this category: « Almost Maine: Hot Chocolate for the Soul Oedipus: Williamston Goes Greek »

Add comment

enter your comment here...

Name enter your name...

E-mail enter your e-mail address...

URL (optional) enter your site URL...

Enter the two words you see below stop spam. read books.

Submit comment

back to top

Find us on Facebook



REVUE Mid-Michigan Support local music! Can you dig it??



19 hours ago

REVUE Mid-Michigan Tune in your TV to WKAR at 10 p.m. tonight for the new season of Backstage Pass.



1,144 people like REVUE Mid-Michigan



Facebook social plugin



© 2011 Revue Magazine. All Rights Reserved. Site Map