

ROLLING EGG



August 4 2018

notes from the Providence Fringe Festival 2018 // daily // free

"NOTES FROM A HIGH HEELED SHOE"

regarding architecture, theatre, chairs I sat in, stuff I heard

I'm at Darcie's show at the courtyard of the Plant, it's a triple or quadruple riff on Kafka's "Amerika". Like there's the book, then someone did an art show based on the book, then there's a book based on the art show, then this is based on that. I bought my copy of this book when I was a teenager, from Quinsigamond noise hero and longtime music store employee Bob Jordan. He drew a speaker diagram on the front of the cover but I thought it was just part of the design for years. Now when I see an unadorned copy at a bookstore it's jarring, like when you have a record that skips in one place, then you hear the song played on the radio and that bizarre looping interlude is absent. Regarding this show you do not, repeat do not, have to have read the book. But a casual notion of the ideas "Kafkaesque" and "America" would be helpful.

This play mentions Aeron chairs, those top tier office chairs that first wave dot commers invested in. But the play doesn't have these chairs, they have other chairs, which is for the best as these particularly expensive chairs are haunted. The first wave of dot com businesses all bought them, then crashed, the chairs got resold, those businesses crashed, chairs resold, ad nauseum. They're the best office chair you can buy, but they're haunted. The chairs at play here are regular or what I would call prosumer grade office chairs. The audience sits on folding chairs as is the custom. I took a third style of seating, a wall to the side. At one point the audience had to get up while an actor inventoried the chairs at the behest of the play's boss character. I stayed where I was, I had opted into the landscape.

"5 DAYS LATER, BITTEN BY A POLAR BEAR"

This play has a few traditional vaudeville notes but I don't know if they're swinging for them or if that's incidental. Madcap running around, some of the old soft shoe... There's a couple baggy suit comedians but then this one guy has like a nice well-fitting suit, so maybe the script just said "suit", and that one guy had previously invested. A favorite part was the interstitial character that wipes the slate clean (emotionally) with a beautiful song and a strong clear dulcet voice. It's a beauty queen role! I talked to the actor briefly after the show, she said she didn't get a lot of the jokes at first because she's never had an office job. I had an office job a million years ago but I spent most of my time trying to get people to put me on hold so I could sit there and read a magazine. Now here I am writing a magazine! Of sorts. The actor's first job was a shoe-shiner, that's classic. Now she semi-professionally traipses through a courtyard. I've said it before and I'll say it again: What A World!



There were a lot of egg puns in the play but that didn't curry any favor with me, I'm not some kind of egg-obsessed Batman villain, it's just a name. The play ended and the whole cast walked really far away, so someone else had to say "that's it".

Venue change to Waterfire. I got a spinach empenada in the parking lot, it was great and came with a dipping sauce and plantain chips. There's nothing funny or interesting here, the food was good and I ate it. I ran into the poetry guy from the first day, he said he was going to use what I wrote about him being "half psychedelic caterpillar" in his press pack. I saw Giancarlo, he was here to see Broken, I said "check out the dude's face" but honestly what the hell else are you gonna do? I might as well have said "continue to supply your brain with oxygen" or "maintain cell cohesion". "Turn towards warmth".

I caught a show on the roofdeck which seems nice but really would've been better indoors- the nylon stringed guitar sound disappeared into the wind, and then 2 minutes into the play a huge 1980s-sounding rock concert started in a plaza a few blocks away and everyone knew it was going to be a trial. I felt terrible for the performer but she really knuckled down and got the job done, delivering laughs and other emotions to the crowd, who traveled along with her and tuned way in. It's tough to compete with a stadium drummer blasting crisp rock snares over brick buildings on a summer night, but every human endeavor has moments somewhat similar to these, if you never face them that's character unbuilt. At a certain point they were both doing ballads and my brain worked so hard to try and make the songs work together, I almost got there. Again, I would've liked to see the show in a vacuum, but it was also nice to see grace under pressure! Good job!

"THAT'S HOW THE POLAR BEAR DIED"

Walked back to the Wilbury and en route I hear the first seven notes of Ice Ice Baby. I knew it wasn't Under Pressure because the person driving lunged for the volume knob out of embarrassment. You'd never do that to Under Pressure, you'd let it play out.

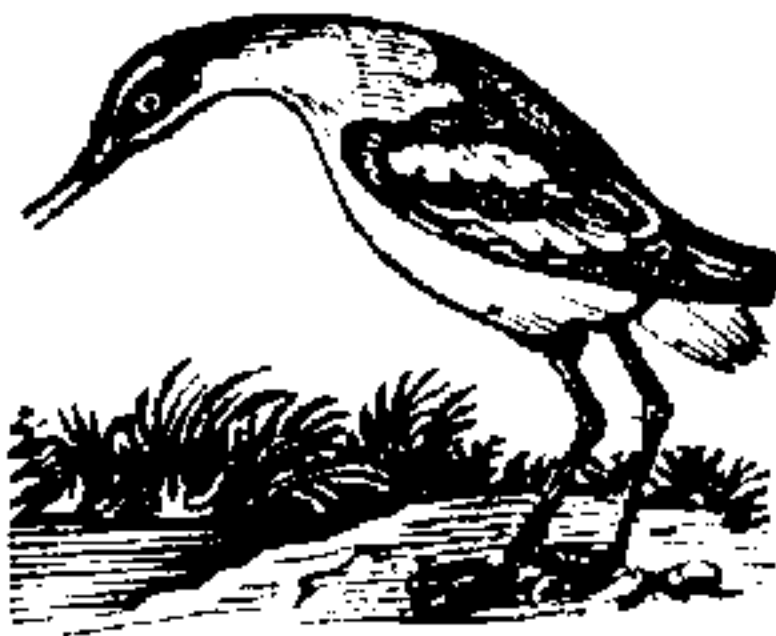
The Wilbury shares a space with an auto detailing business called "Touch Of Class", which is a really great name because like, how much class do you even want? You want a horse-drawn carriage to take you to the governor's mansion, or do you want a cool car with just a picture of a horse on it, and you drive out to the beach with someone and make out? It's no competition-- A Touch Of Class will more than suffice. The side effect of this shared space is that there's always a really really cool car parked in front. Each time I walk up to the theatre I think "I can't wait to see whose car that is" but then I realize it doesn't belong to anyone in the theatre but to a business on the ground floor. What if though. What if that was your car?



Hung out with Renée at the theatre, she's telling me about her dream job as a concierge. Hit up Renée if you need to be told where to get clamcakes, she is a font of knowledge regarding at least clamcakes.

Last act of the night was extremely fun but it was totally wordless so I can't quote anything. There were like, lights... a guy walking... then a different guy just like, standing there? Very nice use of gesture and rhythm, great sound. Sort of a music video feeling, but with a showcase on the visuals? Abstract but very fun, just 3 or 4 really nice ideas well executed, not overdone. He had a huge prop that was on display at the opening party, that I thought *might* be a Christmas tree. I was happy to learn it wasn't. It was like, just a huge thing covered in butterflies. "I was happy to learn it was a huge thing covered in butterflies". There's one for the press pack.

I walked home and there were two guys skateboarding in the completely unbusy side street. But just one of them was skateboarding and the other one was sitting on the curb giving skateboarding advice. It seemed like all he was saying was like "go at it faster and this time, like, really do it". To be fair it looked like the guy on the board was just starting, though probably the guy sitting was too.



PHILOSOPHY OF THE KITCHEN

use this questionnaire to examine your feelings about this or any event

The person playing the _____ would make a good _____

CHARACTER

OCCUPATION

I like the way this _____ says the word " _____ "

ARCHETYPE

SOMETHING AUDIBLE

Food mentioned in this play: _____

If there's food, are the actors [] really eating or [] just waving it around?

In general do you think the actors are [] really eating or [] just waving it around?

There's a character I don't like but I'm going to find something about them I like or at least understand:

- [] I did it
- [] couldn't do it but I also didn't really try
- [] I checked the second box but then I went and did it
- [] nah, not for me thanks

Handwritten scribbles.

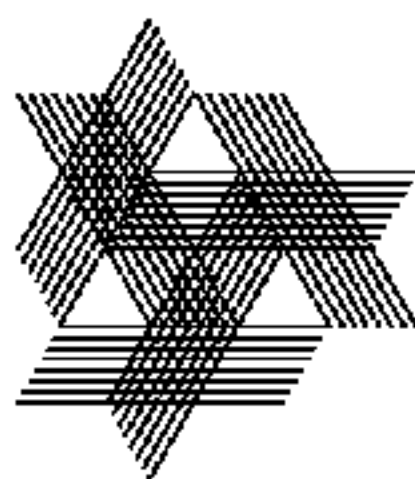
If I lived in this building I would put my bed _____

ROOM OR LOCATION WITHIN ROOM

I wonder if this person is really like this?

- [] yeah totally
- [] no way

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