

The Citadel Theatre presents
Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes
in

Billy Twinkle

Requiem for a Golden Boy

Created and Performed by Ronnie Burkett
October 18 – November 9, 2008
Rice Theatre Series
Maclab Theatre

A Citadel World Premiere Presentation

The search for the dream of a life that sparkles.

Billy Twinkle is a middle-aged cruise ship puppeteer who dazzles audiences with his Stars in Miniature marionette nightclub act. His saucy burlesque stripper Rusty Knockers titillates the tourists, octogenarian Murray Spiegelmann invokes sidesplitting laughter with the inflatable balloon in his pants, Bumblebear juggles and roller-skates and steals the hearts of every audience, and Biddy Bantam Brewster brings a bit of highbrow hilarity to the high seas with her drunken aria. Billy is the best in the business and on top of the world as he floats along through life.

Until he is fired by the cruiseline. Standing at the edge of the ship contemplating a watery demise, Billy is abruptly called back to reality when his dead mentor Sid Diamond appears as a hand puppet. Sid literally will not leave his side, and forces Billy to re-enact his life as a puppet show in order to remember and rekindle the passion Billy once had for puppets, people and the dream of a life that sparkles.

For anyone stuck in the middle – mid-career, mid-love, mid-life – caught between our own past and future, this requiem for a golden boy shines a little light on the wonder of youth meeting the wisdom of age with a kick in the pants to finish what we started.

(more)

“Ronnie is one of our country’s theatrical rock stars. He’s a genius, an international phenomenon and he’s from Alberta. Welcome home Ronnie.”

Bob Baker

The Citadel Theatre is proud to have commissioned this work.

It is co-commissioned by: Canada’s national Arts Centre (Ottawa, Canada); The Vancouver East Cultural Centre (Vancouver, Canada); The Arts Centre (Melbourne, Australia); Barbicanbite09 (London, UK); and the Sydney Opera House (Sydney, Australia)

Sponsored by: CBC, The Edmonton Journal

This production is intended for adult audiences. Children under the age of 14 will not be admitted.