

## Theatre

### Thunderbird Does Sharp Comedy

By Albert Goodwyn

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Serve by Expiration was nearly two hours of sharp social observations dished up as short comedy skits. The play at Exit Theatre skewered family interactions, budding romances, naturalization hearings, and drug addicts with a steady flow of humorous interjections and local references.

In fast-paced interludes on a mostly bare stage, the eight actors moved through scenes of horribly mismatched couples; victims of e-dating; a counselor working on a couple with their pre-nuptial agreement; and a mother berating her indolent son for paying too much for a bag of grass.

A vicious bureaucrat conducted a tearful citizenship hearing for a hapless immigrant couple. Two homeless bums conspired to rip off an outreach worker. The set changes were punctuated by projections on an upstage screen. They ranged from stills of local landmarks (the street signs at the corner of Haight and Ashbury) to clips from Rule of Thumb Studios and swing band Lee Press-on and the Nails.

Broad caricatures of familiar types were used to tell the brief stories, with some improvised shticks and clever throwaway lines by playwright Song S. Kim. A lawyer was in a café with his new date, trying to impress her. When she went to the powder room, the waiters accused him of making them look bad by raising the bar of gentlemanly behavior. That scene moved into a kitchen setting. The cook came on and looked at the utensils on the table.

"Fuck you pots and pans," she cursed. Her husband referred to her as a pasta-tute. He got mad at another man who came in. He ripped out his heart. "Aw, dude. So not cool." He mimed eating the hunk of hamburger he ripped out, then changed into a pink tutu.

Somehow they moved into, "Gay pandas freak me the fuck out." This sort of non-sequitur drove the comedic pace frenetically.

Two married men, and not to each other, had a Brokeback Mountain moment during their golf game. "Dude. We fucked each other last night.

First orgasm I've had in five years," one said. He blamed it on "way too much e." In the end, the "panda fucker" came back in his tutu and started to dance. We were all saved by Pasta Express.

Thunderbird Theatre has been producing comedies in San Francisco for nine years. Their shows are sure to be provocative and funny. Their ability to present the unexpected keeps the audience attuned. This weekend they will be producing Sweet Jesus as part of the Bay One-Acts Festival at Eureka Theatre. This two-person play explores the depths of evangelical piety and serious dementia with a charming, loquacious trailer-trash wife who has a fascinating story to tell to a credulous tabloid journalist (Please see "Hot Tickets" for info.)

This fall, Thunderbird will be showing Aah! Rosebud, a full-length comedy prequel to Orson Welles' Citizen Kane. They say it will be about the winter sport curling and about an evil sled. Information will be found at [www.thunderbirdtheatre.com](http://www.thunderbirdtheatre.com).



Cast members of *Serve by Expiration* PHOTO COURTESY OF THUNDERBIRD THEATRE COMPANY