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Warm Delicious Play - buy the ticket, take the ride

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Midwestern Theater Troupe

There's a strong case to be made for the recognition of a Gonzo theatre. It could be argued that like its more popular counterpart, Gonzo journalism, Gonzo theatre shares many aesthetic similarities. It lays no claim to objectivity, disregards a strictly edited outcome, personality is equally as important as production and it entertains a broad use of humor and exaggeration. Sound familiar?

There are already several notable exponents. There's the excellent Gonzo Theatre Group in County Cavan, Ireland, whose recent *The Circus of Perseverance* made a huge impression at the Dublin Fringe Festival. Here's what they have to say:

The Gonzo Theatre aims to give new ideas a voice in an intimate setting. It will be a dedicated space for new and experimental ideas in theatre, comedy and music. We hope to enable artists to create work of high quality and ambition, while cultivating an atmosphere of adventure and creative enquiry for audiences and artists alike. Apart from our in-house productions it will be a receiving venue for cutting edge and innovative performers in all art forms

Now try this for size:

The Nightingale Theater is...committed to providing a performance venue for independent writers, actors, and designers in the theater arts.... Although our focus is on original works from local artists, we also host touring artists from around the world in a wide variety of disciplines. For nearly a decade, we have provided Tulsa's only independent theater venue - a unique, vital, and indispensable local resource for theater arts.

The comparison here is crucial, for too often a prophet is not accepted in their own hometown. Such, on occasion, has been the case with Nightingale Theater and their resident Midwestern Theater Troupe, too readily dismissed as avant-garde like that was some sort of bad thing. They've been accused of being infuriatingly self-indulgent on occasion. That can occasionally be true from a certain perspective. It's also been said they can sometimes be too loose, too long and a little unfocused. That's can be true too, on occasion. But are they perhaps the most innovative, brave and creative company in Tulsa? Yes. Do they try things that no one else could, would or would even want to? Indeed yes. On their best day could they hold their own with similar companies on a world stage? Yes, yes and double indeed yes.

From the glorious *Just Some Good Ol' Boys*, to the brave *Blue Whale of Catoosa*, the ambitious *The Frogs*, Nightingale and The Midwestern Troupe have consistently proven that the only thing you can know for certain is that you can never really know for certain where they will take you next. The same holds true for their latest creation, *Warm Delicious Play*. The blurb reads as follows:

Midwestern Theater Troupe presents: Warm Delicious Play by John Cruncleton III. A pulp-myth comic fantasia about a witch searching for her daughter. This homegrown gonzo classic will make you happy and holy, filling your nodes of perception with yummo! As an added bonus, you'll enjoy a complimentary cup of glop with every admission! Tickets are \$10 at the door or online at

<http://warmdelicious.brownpapertickets.com/>

Know that in *Warm Delicious Play*, Nightingale and the Midwestern Theater Troupe will take risks. They might not all pay off, but they'll try things no one else will. And that's what any artist or art form needs to do to stay vital and relevant. Push the boundaries, see what's possible and take the audience places they've never been before.

What can you expect from *Warm Delicious Play*? I could endeavour to try give you the details, but there really wouldn't be any point. Instead, let me defer to the world's greatest Gonzo exponent on this one and simply say: buy the ticket - take the ride.

Midwestern Theater Troupe present *Warm Delicious Play*, September 28 and 29, October 5, 6, 12, and 13. Doors open at 8:00pm. Admission is \$10.00

Be advised: if paying at the door, The Nightingale is a cash only venue and does not have facilities for credit cards



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