

MIRROR

VIP stickers available at reception

Celluloid to suck on

» Highlights of the Image&Nation Film Fest

by **MATTHEW HAYS**

There's a veritable orgy of films being presented at the 11th annual Image&Nation Fest. Former Montrealer **Claudia Morgado**, whose exquisite documentary about breasts, *Unbound*, won multiple awards on the fest circuit, returns with *Sabor a mí*. This Spanish-language movie concerns two women who engage in a voyeuristic headgame that would make anyone swoon. Morgado again illustrates her keen ability to convey a story with striking visual images.

Relax... It's Just Sex is P.J. Castellaneta's followup to his 1991 indie hit *Together Alone*. The writer-director has assembled a fine cast here, including **Jennifer Tilly**, **Mitchell Anderson** and **Lori Petty**, who manoeuvre their way through the relationship minefield with resolve and good humour.

John Maybury's *Love Is the Devil* is a striking biopic of **Francis Bacon**, the painter considered one of the greatest of the 20th century. The film, starring **Sir Derek Jacobi** in what is perhaps his most outstanding performance, maps out the sadomasochistic relationship Bacon had with his lover, **Georges Dyer**, who was also the subject of many of his paintings.

Local filmmaker **José Torrealba** will be presenting a work-in-progress cut of *Got 2B There*, a documentary about the history of the circuit party. The film features interviews with such celebrated circuit queens as **Brad Fraser**, **Jeffrey Sanker**, **Eric Sawyer** and circuit critic **Michelangelo Signorile**. Also on the local scene is performance artist **Atif Siddiqi**, whose latest *Erotic/Exotic*, an examination of racism and cultural identity, will have its premiere. And don't miss this opportunity to catch **Anne Golden's** hilarious dyke Western *Big Girl Town*, as the residents of Big Girl Town and Thin Girl Town face off over the latest delivery of blue jeans.



Relax: It's just Jennifer Tilly

Patricia Rozema's landmark 1987 lesbian film, *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*, will also be screened at the fest. **Shella McCarthy** is brilliant in the lead of this delightfully quirky love story about a steamy dyke crush.

Bill Condon's much-anticipated feature about the life of **James Whale**, the first openly gay director in Hollywood, will have its Montreal premiere at the fest. *Gods & Monsters* stars **Sir Ian McKellen** as Whale, **Brendan Fraser** as his straight gardener and **Lynn Redgrave** as Whale's oddball housekeeper.

Jochen Hicks's *Sex Life in L.A.* is yet another look at hustling in the city of angels. **Tony Ward**, **Cole Tucker**, **Ron Athey** and various other hustling porn stars make appearances in this titillating look at the sex trade. ☉

IMAGE&NATION RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER

24 TO OCTOBER 4. INFORMATION: 285-4467

(WWW.KIOSQUE.COM/IMAGENATION); TICKETS

ARE \$7.75 AT THE DOOR, STUDENTS PAY \$5.30.

SCHEDULES AVAILABLE AT PIRAPÉ AND L'ANDROGYNE

Things are heating up at Fringe

Last year's erotic dance sensation returns to give an encore of highly sensuous numbers

PAT DONNELLY
Gazette Theatre Critic

We're well past the midway point and heading into the homestretch of the Montreal Fringe Festival, and I for one have started to pack a lunch.

No slight intended toward the sole on-site food vendor. But having sampled all available sandwich varieties twice, I am now feeling the need for a little culinary variety in my life.

Lord knows I'm not suffering from any lack of theatrical variety. Each show seems to have dropped from another planet.

Tuesday was turnaround point at the Fringe. Finally, the hot shows had line-ups and total stragglers discovered the beer tent. The ad-sipping who's who included Royal Canadian Air Farce star Lubo Goy and the rest of the Festival just for Laugh's Silly Cow cast. The "buzz notes" or instant reviews taped to the wall of the tent doubled within hours. The party was under way.

■ **Eros of Love and Destruction II:** Shaakti reigns. The erotic dance sensation of last year's Fringe is back for an encore, with a stronger, more tightly focused show. This Tokyo-based dancer fuses traditions in her expressionistic, highly sensuous numbers. Sure, she flaunts her body and her waist-length mane. But don't worry guys, this is art, not sleaze. You can bring your wives.

◆ **Eros of Love and Destruction II** plays the first time today at 8:30 p.m. at P.Scene, 3469 Avenue Alex. Tickets \$8.

■ **Erotic, Exotic (Made in Montreal):** Atif Y. Siddiqi's one-person multimedia act lives up to its title. It's deliciously erotic, undeniably exotic and was put together at Concordia University. With his slim body, made-up face and shaved head, Siddiqi has a Sandoz O'Connor/Boy George look. As he dances, with silky moves steeped in the traditions of India and Pakistan, he talks hip confessional poetry with a London-flavoured accent. Siddiqi may seem as delicate as an orchid, but, like Shaakti, he's an artist with hustle. Tapes and CDs of his show are available at the door.

◆ **Erotic, Exotic (Made in Montreal)** plays today at 1:45 p.m. at P.Scene. Ends Sunday. Tickets cost \$7.



Shaakti in Eros of Love and Destruction II.

■ **MacShpliat:** Alain Goulem's witty clown-and-gibberish assault on Shakespeare's Macbeth has gained shape and coherence since it was unveiled at Centaur Theatre a couple of months ago. Scottish nobles on hobby horses and wailing puppet witches make for a foot-stomping good time. However, at P.Scene, the acoustics brighten one flaw: too much yelling and screaming. It's time to tone down and modulate.

◆ **MacShpliat** plays tomorrow at 11:15 p.m. at P.Scene. Tickets cost \$7.

■ **Roots of American Dance, 1850-**

■ **(...but is it) Art?:** Rick Miller, who made waves doing a Macbeth-via-the Simpsons last year, makes a stab at taking on the big questions with a show that's essentially a sequel. Steph Bop-

quist, perched on a stepladder, plays an art critic fruitlessly preaching against pop culture while Miller keeps the audience in stitches by

applying his uncanny knack for voices to the Michael Jackson tribute album and Les Misérables via the Simpsons. The talent is great, but the structure is weak.

◆ **(...but is it) Art?** plays tomorrow at 12:30 p.m. at McGill Players' Theatre, 3480 McTavish St. Ends Sunday. Tickets cost \$8.

■ **Doing Borrowed Time:** Don't be fooled by the dull title. This collection of short plays is thought-provoking, well-acted and staged with style. At the ripe age of 20, playwright Donald Woo shows a remarkable flair for comedy of the absurd. His first piece is the weakest. The best, a corporate-boss satire, is saved for last. Stick with it.

◆ **Doing Borrowed Time** plays tomorrow at 8 p.m. at Montréal, 3425 University St. It ends Sunday. Tickets cost \$6 (students and seniors) or \$8.

■ **Sometimes When I Dream:** Make way for the Mobawks. Kevin Saylor's historical musical set in 1492 is surprisingly soft-edged and pseudo-Broadway to the point of over-sweet. But it is a children's musical. And the young performers are adorable.

◆ **Sometimes When I Dream** plays today at 5:30 p.m. at McGill Players' Theatre. Final performance will be tomorrow at 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$8.

■ **Same Great Taste:** Janis Kirshner and Laura Mitchell are all over the map with their material, so it's not surprising that their show is a little messy. Not all of the numbers fit neatly into the back-to-the-1860s cocktail-party concept. But these are seriously witty women who know how to make their presence felt.

◆ **Same Great Taste** plays today at 12:30 p.m. at Montréal venue. Ends

Saturday. Tickets cost \$8.

■ **And Your Little Dog, Too:** Tova Epp speed-dabbles her way through a young woman's revenge fantasy. After 10 minutes, we begin to sympathize with the two-timing cad. If Epp loves her play, she should let someone else perform it. Happily, the show ends 15 minutes earlier than estimated in the program.

◆ **And Your Little Dog, Too** plays today at 10:30 p.m. at Montréal. Ends Sunday. Tickets \$6 (students and seniors) or \$8.



TODAY'S PROGRAM

The Nubel, 1:45 p.m. (88; seniors, students, unemployed, \$5); **Ma, Where Are You?,** 3:45 p.m. (88; seniors, students, \$5); **The Great Canadian Orgy,** 5:45 p.m. (88); **Tennessee Williams Two-for-One Mystery Hour,** 8 p.m. (85); **White Noise,** 10 p.m. (88); **Waiting for Godot,** midnight (88; seniors, students, \$5); at Salle Fraser Ave, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Samuel's Swears, noon (87; students, artists, \$6); **Exotic (Made in Montreal),** 1:45 p.m. (87); **Eros of Love and Destruction II,** 3:30 p.m. (85); **La Grande Ouvre de Capitaine Mar-ridanhu,** 5:30 p.m. (88); **The Roots of American Dance, 1850-1940,** 8:45 p.m. (88; children, 12 years and younger, \$5); **Dancesporting,** 10:45 p.m. (85); **Say What's a Word!,** 12:30 a.m. (88); at P.Scene, 3449 Avenue Alex.

Sexual Personality in Chicago, 12:45 p.m. (88; students, seniors, \$8); **Savages,** 3 p.m. (88; students, seniors, \$5); **Alone,** 5:15 p.m. (86; students, seniors, unemployed, \$5); **Sometimes When I Dream,** 7:30 p.m. (85); **Notes from the Bottom of the Bog,** 9:45 p.m. (87; seniors, students, unemployed, \$5); **White Light Society,** 11:45 p.m. (86; seniors, students, \$5); at the Players' Theatre, 3480 McTavish St., 3rd floor.

Booze Cold, noon (85); **Sexual Gore,** 2 p.m. (86); **Concrete Aftertaste,** 3:45 p.m. (86); **Witness Beyond the Pale,** 5:45 p.m. (85; seniors, students, \$2; unemployed, free); **Insects & Goths the Colourer,** 8:45 p.m. (88); **Children 14 years and younger,** \$5; **Manama,** 9:45 p.m. (87; students, seniors, unemployed, \$5); **Turtle Unstuck,** 11:45 p.m. (88; children, \$4); at Merr Cohart, 3480 McTavish St.

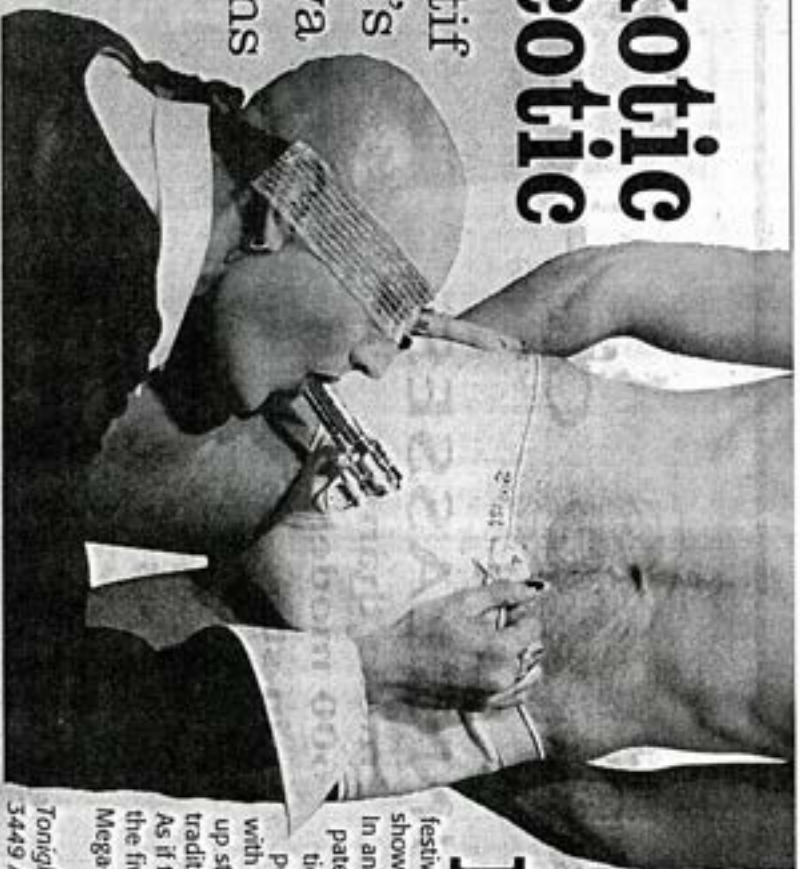
Same Great Taste, 12:30 p.m. (88); **The Pillow Case: a Detective Nightmare,** 2:30 p.m. (88; students and seniors, \$5; unemployed, \$7); **See Bob Ram,** 4:30 p.m. (88); **Play,** 6:30 p.m. (88); **Pillar of Salt,** 8:30 p.m. (88; seniors, students, unemployed, \$6); **And Your Little Dog, Too,** 10:30 p.m. (88; students, seniors, \$6); **Letters,** 12:30 p.m. (88; low income, \$5); at Montréal, 3425 University St.

Endless number: 9:45-10:00

FREE FOR ALL

Quixotic narcotic

Atif
Siddiqi's
diva
diversions



ARTS

Performance artist Atif Siddiqi takes the term "fringe" to its fashion limits this season, aiming to cut a sartorial swoosh through the festival with the cross-cultural candidness of his multimedia show, *Erotic, Exotic*. In an array of states of dress and undress, Siddiqi brings his patented diva style to bear on a 45-minute story of migration from the Indian subcontinent to North America. The performance integrates classical Indian music and dance with modern counterparts, slides and poetry; its goal is to trip up stereotypes at every turn, and toss gender and religion, tradition and fetishism, into a blender of questions. As if that weren't enough, Siddiqi throws in two bonus gifts, the five-minute performance *Cheapness and Forgery* and the Mega-Diva monologue *Robes of the Role*.

Tonight (June 19) through June 22 at P-Scene, 3449 Aymer (alley), various times, mature audiences only, \$5.



LE JOURNAL BILINGUE DES GAYS ET LESBIENNES DE MONTREAL BILINGUAL QUEER NEWSPAPER

MONTREAL FRINGE FESTIVAL 1997

Erotic Exotic

Fresh, ferocious, and fabulously funny, *Erotic, Exotic* blends camp humour and biting satire. Aif delivers the Diva! Destined to give you a high and blow you away. The World Premiere of *Erotic, Exotic* will be part of the Montreal Fringe Festival 1997. Opening on June 14 and running till June 22 1997 at McGill University.

Erotic, Exotic is an innovative, multi-disciplinary performance piece dealing principally with issues of cultural stereotypes, racial and sexual discrimination, gender identify, exoticism and fetishism in regards to sexuality.

It subverts the cultural construction of tradition and social identity, through the mediums of poetic text, spoken and sung with music, dance, costume, and slide projections. Theatrical staging and enactment illustrate these themes through a cohesive narrative of migration from the Indian sub-continent to North America.

The work as a whole is a trilogy, approximately 30 minutes long. The music combines chants, sampled grooves and elements of Indian Classical music with the usage of vocal percussion. The experimental choreography blends classical Kattak dance, Baladi and modern movement. All the mediums will reinforce the text's moods and intents.



Resulting in a creative commentary on cross-cultural, cross-gender, social conflict (both internal and external) due to religious limitations and conditioning.

Erotic, Exotic will be followed by two shorter but equally fabulous pieces which complement its themes and storyline. These are: *Cheapness and Forgery*, which is the goddess Urania's comment on social, sexual consumption and the sacred having been forsaken in today's reality. Ultra fierce!

Robes of the Role, a self-reflective piece that blurs the distinction between the performer/performed, creator/created, and comments on an artist being trapped in a persona which is his own creation. Mega Diva! Swish, swish, snap, snap!

For showtimes and other info, call the Fringe Hotline at 849-FEST. *Erotic, Exotic* and other Fringe plays will be performed at P-Scene (3449 Aylmer).