

THE SHAKESPEARE SHOW

Or;

How an illiterate son of a Glover became the Greatest Playwright in the World

Based on the greatest theatrical debate of all time, The Shakespeare Show investigates the theory that the plays of William Shakespeare were actually penned by Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford.

Just like one of his tragic heroes, Oxford sets his own tragedy in motion by using young Will Shakespeare, the boy who holds the horses outside the theatre, as a 'Front' for his playwriting ventures. The result? Another "relentlessly clever, action-packed and intellectually satisfying" (Edmonton Journal) **Monster Theatre** adventure, complete with puppets, songs, satire and swordfights. Along the way we meet the Ghost of Christopher Marlowe, the Three Witches from Mac...The Scottish Play, Anne Hathaway, the Bubonic Plague and Queen Elizabeth herself! In the end, Oxford is killed and charges Shakespeare to tell his story – hence, this...

'The only play e'er writ by Will Shakespeare.'

Monster Theatre has been creating plays and touring them across Canada since 2000. They are committed to presenting stories from mythology and history in exciting new packages for today's audiences. Past productions include The Canada Show: The Complete History of Canada in One Hour (*Winner 'Just For Laughs' Frankie award for Best Comedy*), The Big Rock Show: The Complete History of the World ("★★★★★ *Hilarious!*" -Westender, Vancouver), Jesus Christ: The Lost Years ("★★★★★ *One of the most deft pieces of physical comedy I have ever seen!*" -SEE Magazine), Napoleon's Secret Diary ("★★★★★ *Gladstone plays the little corporal with vulnerability, total charm and dead-on comic chops!*" -CBC Winnipeg), and The Seven Lives of Louis Riel ("★★★★★ *The concept is as brilliant as the execution is funny!*" -CBC)

The Shakespeare Show was written by **Monster Theatre's** Artistic Director Ryan Gladstone. He spent six months researching the authorship question, and wrote the play entirely in iambic pentameter and almost completely in rhyming couplets. Directed by Karen Hamm and also featuring Tara Travis, the play is a fast-paced physical comedy in which both actors play dozens of roles. First produced and workshopped on the Canadian Fringe Festival circuit, The Shakespeare Show won Pick of the Fringe in Vancouver. The production is minimal with a simple backdrop and only two props – a massive Queen Elizabeth Wig, and a Puppet of the Three Witches in which one actor plays all three! A beautiful score is supplied by violin virtuoso Drew Jurecka (*Jeff Healey Band, Sarah Slean, Vinyl Café*), and Fight Choreography is supplied by Kevin James (*Bard on the Beach, Theatre Calgary*).