

THE CUBAN MISSILE



In his last production *Apis, or the Taste of Honey*, Jerry Mouawad crossed the world of the honeybee with that of a military prison. In *The Cuban Missile Tango* Mouawad crosses a halloween night dinner party with the Cuban missile crisis. Call it fusion theatre, call it explosive dance mime performance, call it opera beyond words – whatever you call it, it’s still difficult to peg. *The Cuban Missile Tango* plays Aug 27, 28, 29 @ 7:30, and Aug 30 @ 2:00. All tickets are \$10. Shows will take place at Imago Theatre, 17 SE 8th Avenue. Tickets are only sold at the door one hour before show time. For more information visit: www.imagotheatre.com

The Cuban missile crisis took the world dangerously close to a nuclear disaster. Robert McNamara ironically called the politician’s responsible - rational men. The rational men were Khrushchev, Kennedy and Castro. Each became victims of a game of chicken that threatened the annihilation of all nations. A Google search can give you the basics of the thirteen days of terror in October 1962. Those who were old enough to remember can tell you what they were doing when Kennedy’s televised speech shocked the country into fears of World War III. It wasn’t until an international conference in Cuba in 2002 that the world understood how close we came to a nuclear holocaust.

Mouawad’s cast of fourteen actors, dancers and movers throw plates, toss guns, play sex games and eat dinner to create *The Cuban Missile Tango*. To tell the story, teletype projections blast away above the set: Early in the play the

type reads “*Fidel Castro overthrows brutal dictator to liberate Cuba. ...Castro dumps on capitalist ideology.... CIA attempt assassinations with with LSD laced cigars....*” Below these headlines Mouawad stages a cantankerous celebration that turns sour then deadly. The action is both literal and abstract.

Mouawad says, “*I’m into my third week of rehearsal and we open in three weeks, so everything is as crazy as the crisis. I’m trying to piece together two different events to become one. The historical data on one side of my brain, and the events of this strange party at the other. It’s tricky and complex, however what I’m after is simplicity.*” Not unlike *Apis*, Mouawad will design lights and set and incorporate the design elements into his second of what he is considering a canon of movement plays without words.

Another headline in *The Cuban Missile Tango* “*1961, American Nuclear War Head: 6,312; Soviet Nuclear War heads: 401*” What does Mouawad do with this data? He serves the Kennedys a horde of hors D’oeuvre, while across the room Khrushchev’s clan is served very small portions.

We asked the director one more question: And is there tango? His response: “*Ah, yes, with guns in hand.*”

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Photos available upon request.

This show rated ‘R’ for sexual and violent content.