

Just entertainment

A homo-coming: "Dos Lesbos" returns

On the road with Dos Lesbos: "St. Louis has been surrounded by an information shield since 1978, so things went way over their heads."

BY HOWIE BAGGADONUTZ

Broadway has *Les Miserables*. Pop music has Los Lobos. And here in Portland we have *Dos Lesbos*. When Kelley Edwards and Lea DeLaria opened the musical comedy here last March, it was met with enthusiastic response by audiences and critics alike. People were turned away at the door. *Dos Lesbos* was a smash. Now, nine months and 24,000 miles later, the pair have returned home with a pile of positive reviews to do four more performances of *Dos Lesbos* at the Columbia Theater.

I recently met with Kelley and Lea to discuss the past nine months. The highlight, in my opinion, was their "getting even" with two abusive straight boys by throwing their menstrual-soaked panties in the boys' faces; I promised I wouldn't mention that.

Where have you played the past nine months?

Kelley: We had a summer run in Provincetown, plus we played Boston, Baltimore, New York City, New Orleans, St. Louis, Key West, Durham, Nashville, Washington, D.C. . . .

Has *Dos Lesbos* evolved since its March run in Portland?

K: Yes. First of all, I don't shake like a leaf anymore.

Lea: It's changed a lot. Kelley's song has been changed to a rap. My song is now done in the audience. There's also new choreography. The show is much tighter.

K: We're constantly changing things — inflections, scenes, paragraphs. . . .

So, after nine months it's not hard keeping it fresh?

L: Oh no, not at all, 'cause every audience and every performance is different.

K: Each audience laughs at different places, depending on their level of sophistication.

which brings me to my next question: what about the South?

K: We were wondering how the show would go over in the South.

L: They were so hip in Durham, though!

K: Yes, Nashville and Durham were among the best audiences we ever had. They were so polite. They loved the show and gave us a standing ovation.

What was the worst place you played?

K and L (in unison): Springfield, Massachusetts!



Photo by C. Bruce Forster

Kelley Edwards and Lea DeLaria return with *Dos Lesbos*, Friday, January 8, at the Columbia Theater.

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What happened?

K: We played in a lesbian bar. The women were so excited that they got to the bar two and a half hours early to get good seats, which meant they drank the whole time they were waiting. By the time the show started, even though they loved it to death, they were so drunk that they felt at ease to make comments as if they were at home watching TV.

L: Plus, the woman who did our tech was too stupid to do lights and sound, so the lights stayed on the whole show — even during scene changes! It was a good adventure.

Any other trouble spots?

L: St. Louis, my home. I knew it was going to be bad, but it surpassed my wildest dreams. St. Louis has been surrounded by an information shield since 1978, so things went way over their heads.

K: They wore bell-bottom cords and matching vests.

Whoa!

L: But I'm from there, so it was "going home" for me, and it was the first time any of my relatives saw me perform. My sister loved it

K: After the show, women from Lea's high school, who weren't out at the time or weren't necessarily good friends with Lea, would want Lea to remember them as her best friend.

So, all in all, who came to your show?

L: About 90 percent dykes, 10 percent gay men — the queens loved it! — and, some straight people.

How much longer are you going to do the show?

K: A few months. We're in the process of doing another show.

L: But if things keep happening with the show we could stay with it, although Kelley is ready to move on.

K: Well, we'll always have it. No matter where we go we can always do *Dos Lesbos*. By the time we go to P-town next summer, however, we'd like to have a new show. Eventually, we'd like to have a lot of shows!

Dos Lesbos will play January 8, 9, 15 and 16, at 8 p.m., at the Columbia Theater, 2021 SE Hawthorne Blvd. For ticket information, call 232-7005.



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