

## **Props for The Space Chums**

*The Space Chums bring a unique blend of great music, spectacle and humour to every event they play. Their joy and sense of fun are infectious - audiences of all ages are entertained from beginning to end."*

**- Jaye Robinson, City Councillor, Ward 25 Don Valley West**

*The Space Chums are great musicians and hilarious performers. Their songs are stellar. My family are die-hard fans!"*

**- Chris Murphy, Sloan**

*During the Space Chums performance, I saw parents running with their children to catch a glimpse of the hilariously costumed people and clever music on display. Audience participation was huge. Many adults, including the market coordinator, were delighted and beaming when the performance started. They have been a highlight from this year's market season and we hope to have them back again."*

**- Morgan Yew, Music Programmer Evergreen Brickworks Farmers' Market**

*"The Space Chums capture the unique blend of quality musicianship and accessible, fun kids music. They brought a great energy to the Festival, inviting and engaging the audience in a solid musical journey from their magical intergalactic space band. The music is clearly performed by professionals, resulting in a musically satisfying performance for both kids and adults. I guarantee Space Chums will be a great addition to any festival."*

**- Aviva Armour-Ostroff Artistic Director, Lab Cab Festival Toronto, Ontario**

## **Past Press for Members of The Space Chums**

### **The Emperor's New Clothes**

NOW MAGAZINE – 4 N's, critic's pick

JULY 7TH, 2002 By JON KAPLAN

"ROYAL KNICKERS... AND SNICKERS"

If you've got kids and want to give them a theatrical treat, check out Shrimp Magnet Theatre's version of the classic fairy tale The Emperor's New Clothes. Blending the tang of today's playground language, some funny jokes and the sugar-coated moral of trusting your own instincts instead of following the herd, the production works for children as well as their parents.

Too often theatre for young audiences falls into a kind of lame babysitting, its model Saturday-morning cartoons, with their frantic action and scant plots. On the stage, this can translate into actors running through the audience screaming hysterically, trying with high energy to distract kids from a show's lack of narrative interest.

Shrimp Magnet never stoops to that kind of lazy theatre. Based on Centre Island (when the current strike isn't keeping ferry service from delivering audiences), the company relies on zestful performances but couples them with strong storytelling and a realization that they have to hold parents as well as children for 45 minutes of theatre. The group appeared at the Fringe two years ago in Jeremy's Germs, in which young viewers learned about their sometimes icky insides by following a character into his own body - think a pint-sized version of The Incredible Journey - and proved they understand how their target viewers think and feel.

Like Jeremy's Germs, The Emperor's New Clothes makes confident use of the audience, sometimes literally drawing them into the action and always engaging their imagination. Here the hero is Robin (the effervescent Kate Keenan), assistant potato cleaner in the royal palace, who saves the emperor's ass by pointing out the trickery of Biff (Cleve Sauer), formerly her potato-cleaning boss before he turned himself into a chi-chi French designer.

Robin connects with the dumb, goofy, lovable emperor (Christopher Schneider) over their mutual interest in fishing, teaching him to stand up to an imperious royal adviser (Lesley Halferty, who also directs).

There are several good jokes for parents along the way, and some clever physical comedy. But what truly cements the bond between the players of Shrimp Magnet and their audience is their infectious sense of fun, a spirit that viewers of all ages can't help but share.

<http://www.nowtoronto.com/fringe/dailyreports5.php>

Few Toronto kids' companies use high-energy, audience-participation antics as successfully as Shrimp Magnet. Their adaptation of the classic fairy tale -- including some good jokes for adults -- has an assistant court potato cleaner (the endearing Kate Keenan) bonding with goofy Emperor Ted (Christopher Schneider) and saving his noble, underwear-clad behind. The cast clearly has fun, and it's infectious.

### **The Land of I Told You So**

EYE WEEKLY's Review – 4 Stars

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Shrimp Magnet Theatre knows kids. This journey into a parallel world boasts hilarious and easily accessible characters, a charming villain and audience interaction that really works. Kate Keenan's [no relation to reviewer — Ed.] performance as the no-good ring-mistress Madame Schadenfreude is exceptional. Musical numbers are fun and engaging and help to break up the narrative and reinforce important plot points. A broad range of humour appeals to kids of all ages and grown-ups, too.

- Rebecca Keenan

<http://eyeweekly.com/fringe2007/?p=292>

**The Land of I Told You So**

**READER'S REVIEW - EYE WEEKLY FRINGE GUIDE WEBSITE**

This is a tightly written children's play, just the right length, with just the right amount of audience participation - excellently performed by all the actors, with special kudos to one of the best comic moo-haha villains I have seen on a stage. My 4 year old son was enchanted and sang and laughed along with it, and it seemed all the other kids and adults enjoyed it too.

<http://eyeweekly.com/fringe2007/?p=292>

**The Land of I Told You So**

**NOW'S 2007 FRINGE HIGHLIGHTS:**

**OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES – critic's pick NNNN**

Reviewed by: Jon Kaplan, Thursday, July 12, 2007

The always reliable Shrimp Magnet Theatre returns with a crowd-pleaser based on cautionary folk wisdom, of the step-on-a-crack-break-your-mother's-back variety. Energy, cleverness and audience participation contribute to the success of this family show, whose message is nicely embedded in its entertainment.

[http://www.nowtoronto.com/fringe/play\\_details.cfm?play\\_id=646](http://www.nowtoronto.com/fringe/play_details.cfm?play_id=646)

[http://www.nowtoronto.com/issues/2007-07-19/stage\\_theatrefeature2.php](http://www.nowtoronto.com/issues/2007-07-19/stage_theatrefeature2.php)

**Scott Free and Will Do**

**eye's one-line review:**

A brilliantly funny and sweet story of two best friends... performed with great unpolished gusto by four enthusiastic actors who look like they really are having a great time. Really Real is sincere and smart, and never underestimates its audience.

**Scott Free and Will Do**

**EYE MAGAZINE - FULL REVIEW 4 ½ stars**

Taking a lovely twist on the imaginary-friends theme, two adventurous boys whose mothers each believe the other boy is made up decide that it doesn't really matter what's real, as long as their mums believe in them. The audience's power of imagination is enlisted to help solve the problem, which is a great piece of interactive theatre. There's nothing nicer than kids' entertainment that doesn't patronize its audience -- this show hits the balance between making themes easy to understand and respecting children's keen sense of humour. It's more than funny enough for adults, and a very small audience member at the opening show was enthralled throughout.

Rani Sheen

### **Scott Free and Will Do**

**NOW MAGAZINE 4 N's, critic's pick, outstanding ensemble  
"Magnet a Draw"**

For some misguided companies, theatre for young audiences is about how hectic the actors can get, running around and yelling their lines frantically. That kind of show, rooted in Saturday morning TV cartoons, turns theatre into a lazy form of babysitting. One group that knows how to get the attention of children and their parents intelligently is Shrimp Magnet Theatre, which has performed occasionally in the Fringe and during the summer on Centre Island. This year their Fringe show was *The Really Real Adventures Of Scott Free And Will Do*, featuring C. J. Schneider and Keith Barker as two friends whose mothers both believe their son's friend is imaginary.

Written by co-founders Kate Keenan and Lesley Halferty, who also play the parents, the show has clever games of fantasy, enough quips to engage grown-ups and episodes of fast action that have a purpose. A combination of song, dance, high energy and fun, *Really Real* was one of the best shows at the Kidsvenue; in fact, the artists poured more thought and theatricality into it than you'd find in some Fringe shows for adults.

- Jon Kaplan

## ***How they let the GoodTimes roll***

By **HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS** *Special to the Star Sat., May 30, 2009*

**[https://www.thestar.com/life/2009/05/30/how\\_they\\_let\\_the\\_goodtimes\\_roll.html](https://www.thestar.com/life/2009/05/30/how_they_let_the_goodtimes_roll.html)**

Ian Goodhue has a big personality.

So when he and Lindsay Milakovic, 32, decided to get married, they were despondent at the thought they would have a regular last name.

The entertainers (she dances, sings and does circus arts; he produces stage shows and has his own rock band) and Mississauga natives, who met eight years ago, wanted something that better reflected who they were as a couple.

Meet the "GoodTimes."

"At some point, we started calling ourselves the GoodTimes," explains Milakovic of the legal name change. "We thought people can say, 'We're going over to the GoodTimes for dinner.'

Who's not going to want to come? Imagine your kids – they're like, 'Hey, we're going to play at the GoodTimes.' Who'd refuse that?"

The name change may have raised a few eyebrows, but no one who knows the couple was that surprised.

They met when a mutual friend suggested Milakovic attend a show being put on by Goodhue's band at Ted's Wrecking Yard. At the time, Goodhue had a bit of a reputation and Milakovic wasn't impressed.

"He was a bit of a player," she recalls, laughing.

She turned him down twice before agreeing to go on a breakfast date a few days later.

"The date did not go well," says Milakovic simply.

When they bumped into each other at a party the next summer and Goodhue asked her out again, Milakovic said "yes" despite the first encounter.

"I just sort of felt like there could be something else there," she says.

The two hit it off and dated over the next few years as their lives pulled them in different directions. Milakovic spent three months performing theatre on a tall ship in the southern United States and then four months in Asia with girlfriends. Goodhue was based mainly in Toronto but busy with production gigs and touring the country with his band.

When fortune found them in the same city, they'd go on a date, and when apart, letters back and forth kept them in each other's thoughts.

Then, one day in 2003, Milakovic was in the backwoods of Laos when Goodhue called her and asked her to move in with him.

"I guess I fell in love," says Goodhue, 37, who admits he was uncharacteristically smitten with the girl he describes as "hilarious," "silly" and "fun."

"I don't know how I found her, but she was in Laos, and it was Christmas, and I found her somehow," he adds. "I found her, I asked her and she said, 'Yay.'"

The relationship was tested in 2005 when a back injury literally knocked Milakovic off her feet.

"I had to quit dancing. I couldn't walk sometimes. It was bad," she recalls. "He took really good care of me. He was helping me put on my socks and do all the little daily things."

Suddenly, she saw the relationship in a different light.

"It helped us know that we are really here for each other even though sometimes it is not going to be so great," she said. "It was a turning point for us."

During a trip to Europe to visit Goodhue while he was touring with his band, the couple popped over to Turkey and, after a homemade spaghetti dinner, he got down on one knee and proposed. That's when she said yes.

"By that time we had just gone through so many things together that we knew – or I knew – that we could handle anything," Milakovic says.

When a couple is about to become "the GoodTimes," they can't very well have a run-of-the-mill wedding. They decided to do what they do best and stage a show instead. Wedding guests had to buy tickets to attend (\$75 each), which gave their wedding the unique distinction of generating \$10,000 in pre-sales.

The ceremony took place Aug. 24, 2007, on the front porch of their home on Shaw St. in Little Italy. A friend – who is a United Church minister – presided and the rabbi father of a close friend chimed in as well.

The wedding's vintage retro theme encouraged guests to dress the part.

A cellist, violinist, percussionist and trumpet player made up the on-porch band. Bridesmaids danced down the aisle to Maneater by Hall and Oates and Milakovic and her father entered to Billy Idol's White Wedding.

After the deed was done, confetti cannons went off and the band played the theme song from Good Times – the '70s TV sitcom – and the wedding party broke into a choreographed dance routine.

"It was hilarious," Milakovic says. "It was great because nobody was ready for it on the lawn at all. The minister was doing all the moves and then the rabbi got in at the end with his jazz hands because he was not there for rehearsal."

Ultimately, almost 300 people crowded onto the lawn to watch the ceremony. Once the dance number was over, a New Orleans-style band playing When the Saints Go Marching In led the wedding crowd on a parade up the street to the reception venue at Revival on College St.

"It was a huge, silly parade," says Goodhue of the procession that included rickshaws from Kensington Market and a double-decker bus for older family members and expectant moms.

The couple handed out kazoos that had "The GoodTimes" printed on them. Overhead, an airplane – rented as a surprise by friends – flew around with a banner that read,

"Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. GoodTimes."

At Revival, guests traded in their ticket for a GoodTimes stamp on their hand and settled in for a two-act show in which the GoodTimes had the starring role.

"We opened up the show with Let the Good Times Roll," says Milakovic, noting a 14-piece big band her husband put together for the wedding and called "Gord Light and the GoodTimes" backed them up on stage. The show also featured friends, artists, circus performers and dancing mascot bears.

Desserts came courtesy of the maid of honour's mother and all of the flowers came from Milakovic's mom's garden.

Their first dance was Dean Martin's You Belong to Me sung by The Golden Dogs. Speeches were kept to a minimum.

"We gave our families, and whoever was giving speeches, explicit terms that they could only have a maximum of three minutes," says Goodhue. And if they went too long, they would get cut off by music, Oscars-style.

When the show ended around midnight – a full five hours after the ceremony had begun – the DJ took over and the dance floor opened up, taking the party deep into the morning.

The honeymoon was a lot subtler: A night at the Gladstone Hotel after the party and then a week up north. "We fly and travel so much. We just couldn't bring ourselves to go to an airport," Goodhue says.

The show went so well the duo decided to keep the gig going. They started a band called The GoodTimes, which performs internationally, headlines an annual Christmas show in Toronto and is gearing up for a cross-Canada tour.

"We work so well together, and we get to spend a lot more time together than I think a lot of people do," Milakovic says. "It's been awesome."