

The StarPhoenix

MY MOROCCO

The Desert Bus Company
Venue 6, Off Broadway Arts Centre
Today, Saturday, Sunday

Rating - ★★★★★ (5 Stars)

Ken Cameron made me feel sick. For that, I say thank you and bravo! It's a testament to the power of his words and his capacity to perform them. Cameron is a riveting storyteller who breathes a narrative so intoxicating it becomes tangible.

His description of a progressive sickness and ultimate death literally made me feel short of breath and a little nauseous. Perhaps you don't want the audience barfing at your show. Still, it would have been a retch of reverence.

Since I brought it up, there's actually quite a few references to bodily functions throughout the play, which brings the audience on a very personal journey of Cameron's through the ebb and flow of the heart via Casablanca and Tangiers.

The stifling heat and burden of stress lead to constipation, consternation and contemplation -- not to mention a cotton-mouth thirst that is quenched by revelation as much as water.

Through it all, we are introduced to Ibrahim, an Arabian carpet salesperson, as well as a dead-on manifestation of author William S. Burroughs.

Their philosophies on life nearly match their offbeat personalities yet the message in their imperious ramblings is clear as a Saharan sky.

"What we know about death is a test, an SAT for eternity," Burroughs suggests. "Did you live your life today or just write about it as it went by?" The story is told in a unique way that has Cameron acting flashbacks but stepping out of the scenes to talk about the play itself and the bona fide events which birthed it.

It's a powerful, moving homage to the bonds of family, which sometimes fracture but, in fact, never break apart. It's touching. It's provocative. It's a winner.

It's not as laden with cliches as this review, but as Cameron notes: "Cliches work. That's why they become cliches." Go to Morocco. Surrender to the cockroaches and feel inspired, thirsty and maybe a little ill.

Saskatoon StarPhoenix