Methtacular! The Musical Comedy... about Addiction?

September 3, 2014 By Mark S. King

It is no secret that I am a **crystal meth addict** in recovery. But writing about it, at least in the often humorous style for which my blog is known, escapes me. My process of recovery feels too precious, too personal, and yes, even too delicate.

So it was with some skepticism that I recently attended the Chicago premiere of**Methtacular!**, an autobiographical one-man show in which the star leads us through his descent into drug addiction through music, comedy, and even a game show segment using audience members as contestants.

I laughed with bittersweet recognition and sat amazed at the talents of writer and performer Steven Strafford. Even more, though, I was impressed by how much the audience as a whole enjoyed the show. I don't mean to stereotype, but I don't believe the young straight couples or the elderly subscription holders in attendance were intimately familiar with the bathhouse antics of meth users on a five day binge. But God bless 'em, they were laughing heartily.

I should have known better than to question their ability to relate to someone overcoming painful adversity and combating the shame that so often accompanies it with humor. It's the very reason people without HIV read my blog, or watch films about the difficult lives of others. As much as we may fear revealing our secrets, it is that intimacy, that sharing of ourselves, that we all truly desire and that has such healing properties.

If you are anywhere near Chicago before the show closes September 28, please **contact Theater Wit** and make your reservations. If you are not in the area, enjoy my video blog about the production and then start bugging the producers to bring the show to your city. You're going to love it.

Mark

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