

Reviews

CITY PAGES

12/4/2003

"THE TEN BEST THEATER OF THE TWIN CITIES - 2002"

"...this (**off-leash area**) production, which breaks my heart...is about the most haunting work of theater I saw in 2002. The Theatre Gallery consists of Paul Herwig and Jennifer Ilse, who here portrayed a lonely, meditative long-haul driver and an exhausted waitress in the last hours of their unsatisfying lives. The play was something of a mournful musical, with a score consisting of a few country ballads by Marc Doty, played on an old-fangled synthesizer. This sounded for all the world like the sort of tinny, excessively weepy stuff that might whine from a '70s-era portable radio. The cast also included Josh Scrimshaw playing a silently sinister short-order chef. (**off-leash area**) will remount this play in January of the coming year. Go see it." - Max Sparber, Dec 4, 2003

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1/21/2003

"A" LISTING for the remount of THE SUNRISE CAFE

"The Sunrise Café" This weekend could be your last chance to see this strange, goofy, and often-beautiful performance piece. So I feel compelled to echo the endorsement of my theatre-beat predecessor Max Sparber, who included (**off-leash area's**) original staging of *The Sunrise Café* at Patrick's Cabaret on his Best of 2002 list. The titular café is a desolate Southwestern truck stop where three misfits come together for flapjacks, sausages, and surrealism. But forget what its' "about." The show's real pleasures are aural and visual: how yellow spotlights illuminate Jennifer Ilse's lonesome waitress and Paul Herwig's searching trucker like an Arizona sun; the funny-yet-spooky fossil masks; the economical, transporting set; and Marc Doty's tempestuous sound design and whimsical cowboy ballads." – Dylan Hicks, Jan 21, 2003