

CITYPAGES

april 5, 2000

for Z.A.P.!: KUNST!

“ZAP KUNST is a parody built on grand physical gestures and a terrifying energy...Writer performers Paul Herwig and Jennifer Ilse propel their story with such verve that when their characters meet at the Berlin wall they simply crash through it. Long scenes play with virtually no dialogue and an abundance of sight gags, resembling some expressionist silent comedy. All the while, Herwig & Ilse bring to their performances an endearing lack of guile. Even when Aufgehefferstadt and Zimmerman’s failed attempts to break into theatre cause them to abuse both household pets (in a frightening parody of “Tap Dogs”) and Shakespeare (in a production titled “The Burgermeister of Dusseldorf”) they remain eternal innocents, lost in their desire to be great artists. The pair fumbles repeatedly in one hilarious sequence after another until they discover performance art, “an art form for people who can’t do anything else.” Their resulting sketch involves God, flushing toilets, and awkward acrobatics in a virtuoso display of wretchedness that leads to an ecstatic, ridiculous moment of triumph. For a moment we believe that even bad art can elevate the human spirit.”

- Max Sparber, Minneapolis City Pages, April 5th, 2000