

Mpls STAR TRIBUNE

april 14, 2000

for Z.A.P.!: KUNST!

“ZAP KUNST is a raucous lampoon of performance art, that anything goes hybrid of multimedia, multidisciplinary theatre that could include anything from movement to music to self-mutilation. The spoof is presented as the joint autobiography of “internationally unknown performance artists” Arthur Zimmerman & Zelda Aufgehefferstadt.” We meet them first in heaven...and the notion that really bad artists go to paradise is the first big laugh of the evening. Arthur & Zelda are a cold war Romeo and Juliet, growing up in Bavaria as the children of artistically inclined farm families. Yearning to escape the stifling confines of rural life, they set off for East & West Berlin, meet and court through an exchange of notes tossed over the wall, and break it down in a spasm of creative passion...In a simultaneous brainstorm they invent an art form requiring no talent. They form a two-person “Art Depreciation Society” and present their loopy masterpiece “The Birth of the Universe,” before an epilogue finally returns them to heaven ...ZAP KUNST soars!...Energetic and effortlessly graceful, except when they mean to be clumsy, the duo does for movement what Spike Jones’ cowbell & gumshot renditions of popular songs did for music. When they move through the mechanical routine of their hated day jobs, their choreography is marvelously fast and precise, conjuring a boring restaurant and a dull office on the empty stage. And their ill-fated tryouts for several “Stomp”- style dance reviews puts the torch to that theatrical flavor-of-the-month. The show’s climax, their demented “Birth of the Universe”, takes the air out of pompous productions as they cavort to Gustav Mahler and Johann Strauss Jr. with beach balls representing the planets, setting astronomy back 2,000 years - Pricelessly funny!...(Herwig & Ilse) are assured of their reward up above - and probably here on Earth, too.” - COLIN COVERT, Minneapolis Star Tribune, April 14th, 2000.