



Home Entertainment Stage + Arts

Mu Performing Arts finds unlikely combo in 'Kung Fu Zombies Vs. Cannibals'

Article by: LISA BROCK , Special to the Star Tribune Updated: October 18, 2013 - 11:40 AM

REVIEW: The new play at Mu Performing Arts merges deep thoughts with martial arts, a hip-hop beat and comic-book action.

[?]



ADVERTISEMENT

in case you missed it



General Mills to cut 700 to 800 more jobs



How to ... find (and eat) hen-of-the-woods mushrooms



The boy they couldn't save

U.S. Bank owes 2.7 million people for overdrafts

Expiring lease leaves Renaissance Festival vendors in limbo

St. Therese asking for \$50 million in 'conduit bonds' to pay for senior home

going out »



Download our entertainment app »

digital access »



Save on Star Tribune Unlimited Digital Access! »

steals »



Save 50% off or more! »

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

from around the web sponsored links

- How Alcohol Affects Your Heart (Health Central)
- What Are My Death Benefits from Social Security? (Smart Asset)
- Not Having One Of These Credit Cards in 2014 Will Be A Mistake (NextAdvisor Daily)
- Coach K would trade Wiggins for Love with 'not one second of hesitancy' (FOX Sports)
- Buffett Helps LeBron Turn \$300 Million Into \$63 Billion (The Motley Fool)
- Why Adrian Peterson Is the NFL's Worst Nightmare (Sports Cheat Sheet)

More from Star Tribune

- Police: Woman arrested after fighting with officers outside Cottage Grove Middle School (StarTribune.com)
- Excising an ex: Healing for wounded lovers (StarTribune.com)
- Motorcyclist riding after dark with lights off dies in Crow Wing Co. collision (North Metro)
- Group sues transit agency after it rejects 'Killing Jews' ads for New York City buses (Nation)
- Surprising Brazil election gives boost to overlooked candidate facing incumbent in runoffs (StarTribune.com)
- Amy: Remarriage brings out bad feelings (StarTribune.com)

If you made retail purchases of Red Bull products in the United States between January 1, 2002 and October 3, 2014 you may be entitled to a cash payment or free Red Bull products from a class action settlement.

Prepared by GCG

resize text print buy reprints

Share 43

Tweet 13



Walser Mazda

walser-mazda.com/Mazda-Sale

Great Deals on New & Used Mazdas. Free Warranty for Life. Call Today!

Autumn is upon us, and there's a smell of apocalypse in the air. At least that's the case in **Mu Performing Arts'** world premiere of **Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay's "Kung Fu Zombies vs. Cannibals,"** which has turned the Southern Theater into an arena for an epic, end-of-times battle between humans and those who desire to make them their dinner.

Vongsay's work is really three plays in one: a coming-of-age story as a young woman makes a pilgrimage from Minneapolis to Laos to discover her place in the world; a morality play in which thoughtful people ponder how to make ethical choices in an unethical world; and a flat-out, knock 'em, sock 'em action thriller with more mixed martial arts demonstrations than you can shake a fighting stick at. All of which transpires to the tune of a driving hip-hop beat provided by onstage DJ **Kool Akiem.**

Sika, played with ferocious energy by **Meghan Kreidler,** is just 15 when solar flares create environmental devastation across the globe and also manage to reanimate the dead. Luckily, she's a student of mixed martial arts, since these zombies have mysteriously acquired Kung Fu skills on their trip back from the grave. She spends 10 years fighting her way from Minneapolis to Laos, in order to lay her parents' ashes to rest in their homeland. Along the way she meets perhaps the oddest assortment of lost souls ever to tread a stage.

There's a lot to enjoy in this unlikely m lange, under **Randy Reyes'** direction. **Jeannie Lander** delivers a visceral, over-the-top performance as a tent-revival style preacher espousing a gruesome gospel of cannibalism. **Ayden Her** is a delight as an unaffectedly adorable 6-year-old refugee, while **Maxwell Chonk Thao** offers up a hilariously comic and irreverent performance as a wannabe gangbanger turned Buddhist monk. **Allen Malicsi's** fight choreography is beautifully balletic, introducing startling notes of grace to the fairly gory proceedings.

related content



Payton Woodson as Loc, Meghan Kreidler as Sika, Maxwell Chonk Thao as Slim, Laura Anderson as Arahana
Michal Daniel
KUNG FU ZOMBIES VS. CANNIBALS
Who: By Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay. Directed by Randy Reyes for Mu Performing Arts.
Where: Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Av. S., Mpls.
When: 7:30 p.m. Thu.-Sat.; 2 p.m. Sun. Ends Oct. 27.
Tickets: \$22, 651-789-1012.

more from stage + arts

[Tony Award-winning actress Marian Seldes dies](#)

[Geoffrey Holder, Bond villain and 7-Up pitchman, dies at 84](#)

[Billionaires' artworks headed to auction](#)

Jeep, Dodge, Chrysler Ram

walsercjd.com/NewChryslerJeepDodge

We Have All New Models Available. Browse Our Online Inventory & Save!

That said, "Kung Fu Zombies vs. Cannibals" struggles with tone as it attempts to deliver both a serious moral debate and a broadly drawn, brawling adventure story. Vongsay sketches intriguing parallels between the devastation of this apocalyptic world and the lingering havoc wreaked on Laos during the Vietnam War, but this theme never gets the opportunity to fully develop as it competes with the sheer weight of tangents and styles that overlay the play.

"Kung Fu Zombies vs. Cannibals" may be more effective as an action-packed comic-book thriller than as a philosophical treatise, but Mu Performing Arts deserves credit for bringing this ambitious new playwright to their stage.

Lisa Brock writes about theater.

Restaurant Coupons

shopathome.com/Restaurants

Print Your Free Coupon & Enio A Meal Out For Less Tonight!

resize text print buy reprints

Share 43

Tweet 13



Search the Star Trib

- News
- Local
- Sports
- Business
- Politics
- Opinion
- Lifestyle
- Entertainment
- Obituaries
- Classifieds
- Autos
- Housing
- Jobs

425 Portland Av. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55488

(612) 673-4000

Company

- About the StarTribune
- Advertising
- Directory + Contacts
- Jobs at the StarTribune
- Newspaper in Education
- Vita.mn: Entertainment
- Business Listings

Subscriber Services

- Newspaper Subscriptions
- Digital Access
- Today's Paper
- Vacation Holds/Billing
- Newsletters

Website

- Terms of Use
- Privacy Policy
- Ad Choices
- Site Index

Buy Ads

- Online Ads
- Newspaper Ads
- Classifieds

Store

- Article Archives
- Back copies
- Commercial Reprints
- Permissions

Connect with Us

- Contact Us
- Send a press release
- Become a Fan
- Follow Us
- RSS

© 2014 StarTribune. All rights reserved.

StarTribune.com is powered by Limelight Networks

- Newspaper Subscriptions
- eEdition
- RSS
- Newsletters