

# **VOLCANO *presents*** **THE FOUR HORSEMEN PROJECT**

**Company:** Volcano, Toronto ([www.volcano.ca](http://www.volcano.ca)) in association with Crooked Figure Dances and Global Mechanic Animation. Volcano is an international award-winning, Toronto-based, experimental theatre company.

**Project:** *The Four Horsemen Project* is a multi-award-winning, multi-disciplinary, dance, theatre, sound poetry, and animation extravaganza, assembled by a group of theatre makers, dance artists, and animators from across Canada.



We have taken experimental sound and visual poetry from the early 1970s Toronto avant-garde, and created a show that explores, and explodes the notion of what poetry is: sonically, physically, visually. The final product is an enormously innovative, delightfully entertaining and uniquely Canadian theatrical milestone.

Conceived and directed by Kate Alton and Ross Manson, the show is based on the 1970s experimental poetry of Toronto-based, the Four Horsemen: Rafael Barreto-Rivera, Paul Dutton, Steve McCaffery, and bpNichol.

**Awards:** Best Production, Best New Play, Best Lighting Design, Best Direction – Toronto Theatre Awards (the “Dora” Awards – Toronto’s Theatre Awards), 2007, Best Design, Dublin International Fringe, 2008

The press response has been overwhelmingly positive:

**TORONTO: PRESS QUOTES  
FACTORY THEATRE WORLD PREMIERE, FEBRUARY 2007**

***Winner: Best Production, Best New Play, Best Lighting Design, Best Direction***

**Globe and Mail \*\*\*1/2 / out of 4**

*Please, please, please believe the hype... 65 minutes of seamless and exuberantly integrated dance, animation, poetry and dopy archival footage... just on the right side of the madness-brilliance divide.*

—Kamal al Solaylee, Feb 26, 2007

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20070226.HORSE26/TPStory/?query=kamal>

**NOW magazine \*\*\*\*\* /out of 5**

*There's no precedent for a show like this... brilliantly coutured performers... inventive animation... Be prepared to add your laughter and applause to the sounds in this thrilling, one-of-a-kind show.*

—Glenn Sumi, March 1-7, 2007

[http://www.nowtoronto.com/issues/2007-03-01/stage\\_theatrereviews4.php](http://www.nowtoronto.com/issues/2007-03-01/stage_theatrereviews4.php)



**eye weekly \*\*\*\* /out of 5**

*A heady concoction of poetry, dance and computer graphics... a hyperactive ballet, set to Bruce Alcock's extraordinarily detailed, beautiful animation.... Kate Alton and Ross Manson's production is spectacular and a fitting tribute. Its 60 minutes of gibberish communicate more than most shows manage at twice the length.*

—Paul Isaacs, March 1, 2007

[http://www.eye.net/eye/issue/issue\\_03.01.07/arts/onstage\\_1.php](http://www.eye.net/eye/issue/issue_03.01.07/arts/onstage_1.php)

## Maclean's Magazine online

*I can't stop thinking about The Four Horsemen Project... a mind-bending multi-media show... an extraordinary fusion of words, music, dance, film and animation that brings to life the sound poetry of the Toronto troupe that turned verse inside-out in the 1970s... an ambitious, immensely satisfying mesh of synchronized cues and hurtling, orgasmic improv.*

—Brian Johnson, Feb 28, 2007

<http://forums.macleans.ca/advansis/?mod=for&act=dip&pid=34917&tid=34917&eid=44&so=1&ps=0&sb=1>

## The Toronto Sun \*\*\*\*\* /out of 5

*invites everyone, whether they embrace the strange and wonderful poetry of the Four Horsemen or not, to climb aboard this magic carpet and explore a whole new world*

—John Coulbourn, Feb 23, 2007

<http://www.torontosun.com/Entertainment/Theatre/2007/02/23/3657685-sun.html>



## The Toronto Star \*\*\* / out of 4

*absolutely magical*

—Richard Ouzounian, Feb 22, 2007

<http://www.thestar.com/article/184534>

## CBC radio

*a fabulous work of sound, poetry, performance... just dazzling.*

—Lynn Slotkin, Feb 23, 2007

## The Torontoist

*... not only cool, it's beautiful, revelatory and vital. This show does for sound poetry what Quentin Tarantino movies did for John Travolta and Keith Carradine.... In fact, there isn't a thing about this joyful celebration of a piece of theatre that isn't refreshing. It's hard to see how anyone who enjoys theatre, dance, literature or just life would not love The Four Horsemen Project.*

—Feb 28, 2007

[http://www.torontoist.com/archives/2007/02/the\\_four\\_horsemen.php](http://www.torontoist.com/archives/2007/02/the_four_horsemen.php)

## torontostage.com

*A multi-media, interdisciplinary hybrid of poetry, dance, and song embeds a perma-smile on your face... melodious orgy of sight and sound... Saddle up for this one...*

—Steven Berketo

<http://www.torontostage.com/reviews/fourHorsemenProject.html>



**OTTAWA : PRESS QUOTES  
GREAT CANADIAN THEATRE COMPANY, MARCH 2007**

**The Ottawa Citizen**

*Oh, wow, man. That totally blew my mind.... Forgive me, but that was my initial, barely coherent response to The Four Horsemen Project, the multi-media spectacle now running at Great Canadian Theatre Company... Ross Manson and Kate Alton have preserved the anarchic spirit while elevating the words to breathtaking art.... Four accomplished dancers, who can also sing and act, perform the poems with wit and passion... Words and letters fly, whirl in circles, and stack themselves in piles... a wondrous mix....*

— Catherine Lawson, March 17, 2007

<http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/arts/story.html?id=4561d824-1983-42fd-9600-5d5ea792b627&k=46946>



## **The Ottawa Sun**

*a short but free-floating multimedia experience that uses archival video of Horsemen and Bruce Alcock's stunning animation with four mercurial dancers... the production's striking visuals and bold score come together in a uniquely beautiful way... it's hard to take your eyes off their performance... a legitimate Canadian hit...*

—Dennis Armstrong, March 16, 2007

<http://www.ottawasun.com/Showbiz/OtherShowbiz/2007/03/16/3761823-sun.html>

**North Country Public Radio (NPR) \*\*\*\*\* / out of 5**

*The Four Horsemen Project has a kinetic energy that threatens to burst through the walls of the theatre. This was a difficult review to write, as all I really wanted to say was that the piece is unique, lots of fun, and go see it... The Four Horsemen Project provides seventy minutes of sheer exhilaration.*

—Connie Meng, March 19, 2007

<http://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/fullstory.php?storyid=8873>



**TOUR TO VICTORIA : PRESS QUOTES  
INTREPID THEATRE COMPANY, JANUARY 2008**

**Victoria Times-Colonist \*\*\*\*1/2 / out of 5**

*A jubilant celebration that, I suspect, not only matches the crazed vision of these madmen, but manages to surpass it... We are left with a heightened awareness of our need to communicate, and the limitations of our attempts, which in turn provides some insight into the human condition.... The Four Horsemen Project is tremendous fun... simultaneously playful and serious...*

—Adrian Chamberlain, Jan. 11, 2007

<http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/arts/story.html?id=e8618891-b5f1-43bc-a889-0f2b72625eb8>

**DUBLIN, IRELAND : PRESS QUOTES  
DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 2008**



***Winner: Best Design, Dublin International Fringe, 2008***

**The Irish Times \*\*\*\*\* / out of 5**

*Right from the start... you know this is an exceptional and exciting piece...*

*Inspired by experimental sound poetry group The Four Horsemen, active in the 1970s, this avant-garde production painstakingly and exuberantly deconstructs language, only to reconstruct it and almost create a new artistic entity...*

*Thought-provoking and a joy to watch, this show returns the viewer to a childlike delight with words, a welcome reminder that language, as the core of human experience and exchange, is based on fun and wonder.*

—Christine Madden, Sept. 18, 2008

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/features/2008/0918/1221599462337.html>

**RTE (Irish National Radio)**

*It was absolutely stunning, amazing... it just blows everything out of the water... The imagery, the body work, the movement, the sound, together... is just stunning. It's one of my hits in ten years.... Wonderful. Get to it. Buy tickets and get to it!*

—“On the Fringe” show, Sept. 16, 2008

<http://www.rte.ie/arts/2008/0916/onthefringe.html>

**BERLIN PRESS QUOTES**  
**LITERATURWERKFEST at the KULTURBRAUEREI, BERLIN, JULY 2009**



**Berliner Zeitung**

*Ostensibly this text theatre piece by the Canadian company, Volcano, is about sound poetry, but the effect is one of an increasing, physically-felt sense of happiness....*

*The four dancers of Volcano Theater are fully immersed in this tradition: they dance every single word that they speak. Sometimes in chorus, perfectly timed, sometimes syncopated – in harmony, in unison, and in solo. Colorfully lit to a magnificently choreographed lighting and video projection design...*

*Again and again joy or tears come and go, orgiastically growled, cried, screamed... A little like Waldorf Eurythmia – but more effective!*

— Monika Konigorski, 4 July 2009

<http://www.berlinonline.de/berliner-zeitung/archiv/.bin/dump.fcgi/2009/0704/feuilleton/0063/index.html>