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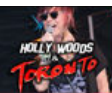
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THEATRE REVIEW

# Rick Miller's Boom a can't-miss theatrical experience



BY LOUIS HOBSON, CALGARY SUN

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Rick Miller created and stars in Boom, playing at the High Performance Rodeo.

Eat your heart out, Stratford.

Rick Miller's mesmerizing multimedia show Boom was originally commissioned by the Stratford Festival but they dumped it when the artistic administration changed.

Enter Theatre Calgary's Dennis Garnhum, a man with limitless vision and Boom is having its premiere at the Max Bell Theatre as part of the 2014 High Performance Rodeo.

Roll out the superlatives because it's the only way you can describe the 114 minutes of political, cultural and music history Miller relates in Boom.

His focus is on the years from 1945 to 1969, which he calls the baby boomer

generation, started with the bombing of Hiroshima and ended with the moon landing.

The set is a huge cylinder inside what looks like a gigantic record and it becomes the time capsule from which Miller delivers his amazing history lesson of how international and national politics impacted ordinary people in North America.

One of the mind blowing aspects of Boom is that Miller gives voice to almost 100 singers, politicians, writers and broadcasters and he nails them every time.

He's aided by what seems like an inexhaustible supply of wigs, jackets, shirts, ties and props. After all, you can't do Winston Churchill or Castro without the cigar or Pierre Trudeau without the rose.

It's one thing for Miller to do an impersonation of Perry Como, Elvis or Mick Jagger but to pull off Little Eva and Janis Joplin with as much ease and authenticity seems dumbfounding for us mere mortals.

Miller is also an accomplished musician and he accompanies himself on guitar and when Bob Dylan enters the time capsule he adds an harmonica.



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Theatre this dynamic, special, insightful and innovative doesn't come around often enough for you to miss it. Three is no question Boom will become an international hit because its themes, characters and music are universal and Calgarians are being given the opportunity to see it first.

Miss it at your own peril.

### BOOM

Max Bell Theatre until Jan. 19

Conceived by and starring Rick Miller

\*\*\*\*\* (out of five)

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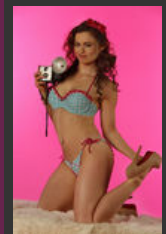
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