

GREATS AT 8
WEEKEND NIGHTS 8PM E/P

DUTY & HONOR WEEKEND

BATTLE OF MIDWAY: A TWIST OF FATE SATURDAY 8 PM E/P

BATTLEGROUND: BATTLE OF THE BULGE SUNDAY 8 PM E/P





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Theater

Time Out Chicago issue 12: May 19–May 26, 2005

Busting Out!

Written by Katie Carey Govier, Marki Shalloe and Kara Lashmet.
Directed by Sara Keely McGuire, Jocelyn Fultz, Cindy Savage and Michael Govier. With Carey Govier, Lashmet, Dana Januszyk, Francesca Peppiatt, Elizabeth Styles, Peter Bernardini.
Stockyards Theatre Project at Stage Left Theatre.

Comedy is a great way to challenge cultural indoctrination. But when it slides into a one-sided harangue, the mission is doomed to fail. Sadly, *Busting Out!*, a collection of one-acts seeking to skewer the "beauty myth," falls headlong into this trap.

The anchoring piece, "Lizzy and Rilla," exemplifies what goes wrong. These interspersed dialogues never ring true, neither as a conversation nor as a polemic. Instead, they offer several uninspired variations on the same theme: Society is wrong to accept only one idea of female beauty. Nobody's arguing, and so it all smacks of foregone conclusion. Other acts are similarly underdramatized. In "Barbie's Dream House," two women confront Mattel's icon of feminine beauty with bold accusations. Commenting on the Dream House furniture, an interrogator quips: "A pink stove that doesn't heat: That's a metaphor for you." Only the final act, "***Results Not Typical**," achieves something more, with Lashmet's touching, funny and honest account of how she lost 200 pounds by breaking off her love affair with Ronald McDonald.



SECRETS AND FRIES Januszyk tries to prevent Govier's snack attack.

But even with this strong ending, the night just doesn't add up. The guiding notion, that all body types are beautiful, quickly gives way to the notion that only large women are beautiful (an idea oddly contradicted when Lashmet recounts the health risks of obesity). More troubling is the acceptance of beauty as women's supreme value. For a production that bandies the L word and L

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perspectives throughout, it's strange that the supremacy of men's approval and the need to feel "beautiful" go largely unquestioned.—*Kay Daly*

[Barbie Dream House](#)

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