

NEW YORK POST

SATIRE TO ADMIRE IN A SMASHING 'BASHING'



THEATER REVIEW

Rating: ★★★★★

August 16, 2007 -- CONSIDERING the socially contentious times we live in, it's surprising there isn't more political satire out there. Will Durst arrived last night to rectify the situation with his one-man show "The All-American Sport of Bipartisan Bashing."

The San Francisco-based stand-up, whose credentials are established in an opening video montage of his many years of television appearances, is the natural successor to Mort Sahl. Like Sahl, Durst uses newspapers as a prop, literally reading from today's headlines in search of new material.

Needless to say, he finds it. Easily.

Proudly describing himself as a "moderate" and establishing his regular-guy credentials with seemingly endless references to his love of cheeseburgers, Durst finds our current president a satirical gold mine.



In his one-man show, comedian Will Durst uses newspapers as a prop, literally reading from today's headlines in search of new material.

"I am part of his No Comic Left Behind program," he says of Bush, from whom he quotes liberally in one of the evening's funniest segments. True to the show's title, he also spends a good part of the evening making fun of Democrats, although he admits he finds it difficult: "You can't mock a vacuum."

Besides his free-ranging attack

on the current administration - he describes Cheney as looking "like a sleepy lizard in search of a warm rock" - he also deals with such topics as gay marriage ("The only difference between gay and straight is which way your head is facing during sex"), consumerism ("The American people love the Home Shopping Network because it's commercial-free") and religion.

Some 80 minutes of expertly crafted one-liners are delivered in a relaxed, naturalistic tone that enhances their effect. But where Durst really demonstrates his mastery is with a brilliantly crafted closing diatribe against the current administration. Not only does he rival George Carlin, but he shows that he's not quite so bipartisan after all.

WILL DURST: THE ALL-AMERICAN SPORT OF BIPARTISAN BASHING *New World Stages, 340 W. 50th St.; (212) 239-6200.*

