

**THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
(Abridged & Revised!)**

The Reduced Shakespeare Company  
By Adam Long, Daniel Singer, & Jess Winfield  
Directed by Reed Martin & Austin Tichenor  
Blumenthal Performing Arts Center  
Booth Playhouse  
October 27 – November 1, 2009

Leave your stuffiness at home. This manic trip through the 37 plays of the Bard is an irreverent gallop through his work. It's so fast, in fact, that you may not be able to catch all the titles, but that doesn't make it any less fun.

The three hard-working, talented actor/comedians: Reed Martin, Matt Rippy, and Austin Tichenor who play all the characters in the show keep it happily moving at break neck speed. It's also interactive so the audience can become part of the experience and laugh at itself.

One caution is that because of some of the bawdy language this is not a show for young children, though the teenagers had an excellent time. Enough of the worshipful groveling! Shakespeare's stories have universal themes so they have lasted hundreds of years, yet to portray them with humor makes them more accessible.

After the intermission, the second act is several mini playlets of Hamlet, which I believe, people know or know about because it's considered by some to be the greatest play in the English language. This provides plenty of laughter as the audience is let in on the joke.

Famous Shakespearean lines are said throughout the show, but you'd better pay attention, or they'll fly right by you.

Review by Ann Marie Oliva