

What's On in London

May 19-May 26, 2004

BEST GUIDE TO THE CAPITAL

Trick Boxing

★★★★★

Blue Elephant

Trick Boxing is a beautiful piece of comic storytelling performed with an infectious charm by two versatile actors at the height of their powers. Daniel Danielovic is destined for a life selling apples on the streets of New York until he is spotted by small-time hustler Buck. Buck sees the potential in Daniel's quick feet and catapults him into the boxing ring to appease mob boss Tommy Aorta. Tommy makes a fortune betting on rigged fights, but when Danny meets Bella and starts to swing dance his nights away rather than focus on the big fight Tommy's best laid plans seem sure to fail.



● Float like a butterfly... 'Trick Boxing'

watching two performers enjoying themselves on stage. The plot may be as light as a feather and the only prop an apple, but what *Trick Boxing* lacks in budget it more than makes up for in heart.

Through puppetry, dance, humour and charm Sostek and McClellan captivate the audience and then deliver punch after punch of theatrical gold. With an almost effervescent positivity that will leave the most jaded audience beaming, *Trick Boxing* is a show which floats like a butterfly and swings like a bee.

(See Fringe) **W@**

With cheeky nods to the gangster films of the 1930s *Trick Boxing* is a tour de force in comic acting by the brilliantly versatile Brian Sostek. With nothing more than the shrug of a shoulder or the flash of a smile Sostek manages to inhabit every male character in the piece, from the naïve young Danny to the bulldog Tommy, with complete conviction.

Megan McClellan is also great as the swing dancing Bella. In some perfectly choreographed and joyous set pieces she and Sostek light up the stage with their fancy foot work and deftly executed dance routines.

The true power of *Trick Boxing* lies in the delight an audience derives from

CIARAN MURTAGH