

TRICK BOXING

Sossy Production

MTC Up The Alley (Venue 8), to July 27

A sendup on the Hollywood musicals of the '30s and '40s, this romance/comedy tells the captivating rags-to-riches tale of a naive immigrant apple seller who is hustled into the ring by a shady boxing promoter, and ultimately saved by a savvy dancing "dame" named Bella.

Created and acted out by the talented Minneapolis duo Megan McClellan and Brian Sostek, Trick Boxing goes all out in recreating both the glamour and earthiness of the Dirty Thirties, complete with the jargon of the times, and incredible dance numbers to rival a Ginger Rogers/Fred Astaire musical.

One hilarious sequence has McClellan and Sostek demonstrating key boxing moves set to the musical standard Tea For Two. Another notable scene has Sostek take on the drone of a sports announcer giving a play-by-play as he acts out a boxing match with puppets. But what particularly stands out is Sostek's knack for accents, facial expressions and caricature, which has him playing several characters at once, who banter back and forth seamlessly.

But all the fighting dolls, parade of accents and jumps and twirls don't take away from what is, at heart, a sweet little love story from a bygone era. And just like the ending of any feel-good vintage Hollywood movie, you can't help but smile when Dancing Danny David gets the girl and dances away into the sunset.