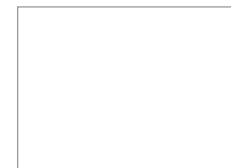
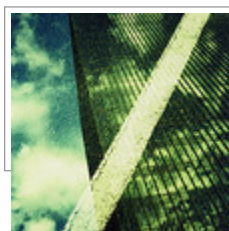
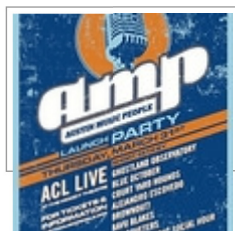


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Austinist Reviews: *Get Your War On*



[This review courtesy of new Austinist contributor Anna Hanks! -Ed.]

As much as we'd like to change a few things about our first time, we regret we'll never be able to repeat the experience. We also can't change history, so catching the currently playing, slick incarnation of the Rude Mechanicals' *Get Your War On* also wasn't our first time. (We reviewed the show last January as well.)

Directed by **Shawn Sides**, *Get Your War On* consists mainly of actors **Lowell Bartholomee**, **Ron Berry**, **Lana Lesley**, **Jason Liebrecht**, and **Elizabeth Wakehouse** on the phone with each other, trading quick quips about 9/11, North Korea, and the ominous involvement of Vice President Dick Cheney and former White House Political Adviser Karl Rove in national policy. Sometimes the actors eat doughnuts and read magazines while they bitterly quip. Sometimes a dude walks around wearing a map of North Korea. Often, pictures of George Bush or the

robotic cartoon giant Voltron are projected in the background.

Based on [David Rees' Internet comic strip](#) of the same name, this clever adaptation by brilliant Rude **Kirk Lynn** premiered as a workshop production in 2005. We loved the show then. In the time being, it's toured the universe, gathering rave reviews and a lot of praise—including the Total Theatre Award for Best Original Work from an Ensemble at the 2007 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Yet, while this production is recast, spiffed-up and revamped—and slightly updated to reflect what's happened in the world since the show premiered—we can't say that we were really hyped after seeing it a second time. With a different cast, new overheads, and more transparencies than you've seen since PowerPoint took over the presentation industry, the Rudes put on an impressively tight and fluid retelling of seven years of the Bush administration. The addition of the visuals made the show different, but it didn't make it a different show. We'd already been there, done that, laughed at the jokes. It was kind of like watching a month-old repeat of *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart. Still funny, but....

Time has not been kind to the script. We know it's a historical dramatization, but a long section on the Anthrax attacks of 2001 felt dated and pointless on second viewing. Making fun of Bush's 2004 imperative to go to Mars was reaching into the past. We live in the moment, and we'd totally blocked that out—it might as well have been something out of the Harding Administration for us. Then again, we've blocked out a lot since our former governor hightailed it to the White House.

"Even if you saw it the last time, you won't want to miss this incarnation, featuring up-to-the-minute material, a new cast, and a revamped design," the Rudes website tells us. For us, not so much. Yet, if our pre-show eavesdropping was correct, the guys behind us had seen it before, and were having a great time seeing it again—for like the fourth time. They were even singing along with the show's musical selections: Electric Light Orchestra's *Telephone Line*, David Bowie's *Life on Mars* and AC/DC's *Highway to Hell*. Heck, maybe a repeat viewing would work for you, too.

And don't get us wrong—you absolutely must see this show once. Tell your peeps in Finland to catch the Rudes when they hit [Helsinki's Espoo City Theatre](#) in October. We just wish we'd waited, so our first time could have been this time.

[Get Your War On](#)

Thurs 8pm, Fri/Sat 8pm & 10pm

Through 9/22

[The Off Center](#) [\[map\]](#)

[\[tickets\]](#)

Contact the author of this article or email tips@austinist.com with further questions, comments or tips.

By [Jooley Ann](#) in [Arts and Entertainment](#) on September 13, 2007 10:44 AM

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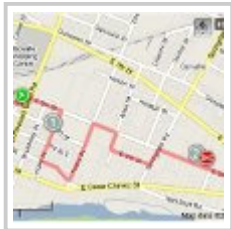
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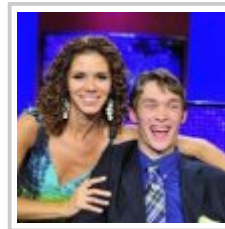
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