

MOUTHY BITCH by Dennis Bush

Critic's Pick!

In this one-woman play by Dennis Bush we meet Kate Carden, a self-styled expert on male/female relationships. Kate is as confident as she is profane, pronouncing truisms about sexual dynamics as illustrated by one outrageous personal anecdote after another. Yet by the end of the play, we realize that, to her at least, there is more rationalization than truth in her philosophy.

It starts innocently enough. Kate recounts graphic moments from her relationships, most of them funny and some wildly so. There's a lot of talk about women needing to accept their sexual equality with men. She casually undresses to her bra to underscore that she is in control of how people will look at her body and along the way, she's so comfortable that it makes perfect sense.

But there is a flip side.

Things go wrong, almost always unexpectedly. The power point projector in the theater doesn't work and she has to improvise. We hear about incidents with her family, with boyfriends and at a party. We learn that she's been told (sometimes expressly) that she needs to embrace those unexpected moments to find freshness in her life.

This is when things become most interesting, because the play sets us up. So much of the script and her delivery are light, bawdy and funny that the other moments — when we see how Kate has learned about heartbreak — take us completely by surprise. We learn that, for Kate at least, there really are no surprises: Despite her bravado, she's learned that one should expect to ultimately be disappointed and hurt.

While this might sound depressing, it's not. It just depends on whether one sees life as a glass half-full rather than half-empty. Despite all evidence to the contrary, Kate has decided to be optimistic... showing us her well-crafted armor with an occasional, tragic glimpse at the heartbreak beneath it. While I enjoyed the play's humor, it was the tragic moments — each of which was startling — that gave the play its depth and made me think about it well after leaving the theater.

— Ed Cohen, Cincinnati *CityBeat*

A Must-See of The Fringe!

The character in *Mouthy Bitch* certainly is. A very mouthy bitch. But an insightful one. And an incredibly funny one.

I consider this solo performance **a must-see** of The Fringe, but I will warn you – it's not for the faint at heart... Some of the things that come out of her mouth are more than foul – but not for the sake of being so. In fact, this brilliant script contains some of the most descriptively offensive sexual references I've ever heard on stage or off.

We, the audience, are at a seminar, and our host is a sort of feminist motivational speaker. With lots of baggage. Some of it is heart-wrenching to hear her re-live; but playwright Dennis Bush manages the horrific stories with plenty of hilarity. His descriptive language maintains an air of honesty and realism while describing things not ordinarily discussed in polite company with zeal.

– Kirk Sheppard, Cincinnati theatre critic

A wonderfully crafted script

Mouthy Bitch is a wonderfully crafted script by Dennis Bush, peppered with adult language and sexual situations.

-- Paul Atreides, *Eat More Art Vegas*, Las Vegas **A cutting edge play**

Dennis Bush brilliantly crafted this cutting edge play that immediately challenges the audience to overcome their own judgements of others' relationships and the fetishes that mutate within... While it could be a bit shocking, I liked that this play presents a viewpoint on what is currently happening behind closed doors in young people's lives and the changes in intimacy that they are being faced with today.

-- Patricia Bethune, noted actress/producer, Los Angeles **A great ride**

Mouthy Bitch is a great ride. It takes you to some unexpected places with some wonderful twists and turns you won't see coming. The writing is top-notch, crisp and poignant. A well-crafted piece in every aspect.

-- David Harper, award-winning actor/writer, Los Angeles **Shocking, funny and intriguing**

Mouthy Bitch was a pleasure to watch – shocking, funny and intriguing. I was thoroughly impressed.

-- Carol-Ann Merrill, line producer, Los Angeles **Powerfully heartbreaking**

(Mouthy Bitch) is funny most of the time but powerfully heartbreaking at other moments. This is the kind of play that makes going to the Fringe great!

-- Matthew Robinson, director/filmmaker, Los Angeles

Raw, dark, and very funny!

Mouthy Bitch is raw, dark, and very funny!
-- Robby DeVillez, filmmaker, Los Angeles

Note: At Cincinnati Fringe Festival, the role of Kate Carden was played by Kelsey Torstveit. The director was Ryan Amador. At Las Vegas Fringe Festival and Hollywood Fringe Festival, the role was played by Asia Lynn Pitts. Jane C. Walsh directed.