



Hilarious Theatre with Fearless Players

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There are two kinds of playgrounds in this world.

There's the one everyone knows where children do the things children do — climb, run, jump, laugh, pretend and imagine.

Then there's the playground that James & Jamesy occupy.

The Vancouver duo of Aaron Malkin (James) and Alastair Knowles (Jamesy) have returned to London for their third visit to London Fringe, this time offering up the world premiere of what undoubtedly will become their newest hit, *James & Jamesy In The Dark*, on at the Grand Theatre's McManus Studio.

A near full house cheered when the show ended, many in the house stunned but still laughing, uncertain of what had just happened over the previous 60 minutes.

With *In The Dark*, Malkin and Knowles — in collaboration with David MacMurray Smith — have reached new heights of ridiculousness, silliness, absurdity, fun and courage.

Again they smashed through the fourth wall separating performer and audience, effortlessly convincing an audience of a hundred or so to get involved in their games.

Their's is a courageous show because if the audience doesn't submit, the show flops.

Few performers depend so heavily on audience participation where not even these two well-trained clowns know what's going to happen next, where improvisation is critical to their success.

To try and describe what happened is nearly impossible.

The show opens in dramatic fashion with racing beams of light (think *Star Trek* transporter), the voices of the two alternately yelling "Ready!" with increasing speed until at some point they are both on stage, each with a chair wearing lamps on their heads.

Then it begins and I'm not sure how it gets from there to the end, but it's a hilarious ride just listening to their banter and watching their physicality.