

THEATRE
PIECES OF EIGHT

★★★★
GEORGE SQUARE THEATRE
(Venue 37)

AN ABSOLUTELY charming little piece of theatre from the couple who gave us *Trick Boxing* last year. This year's delight uses the same format – the willowy, gorgeous Megan McClellan (think Demi Moore meets Cyd Charisse) plays the love interest and the amazing Brian Sostek plays everything else. Sostek creates three-way conversations that you actually believe, and is a terrific physical comedian who has a range of voices any actor would give his **** for. Did I mention they also dance

like a dream? They do – Latin influenced in this show.

The storyline is a sweet, funny, old-fashioned romantic tale set in the heyday of Hollywood. The outer tale is that of a screenwriter who has come along to pitch his masterpiece to the Bitterman Brothers (owners of a studio-come-orange grove which, of course, is unlikely, but it's the basis of the entire plot so just go with it). The Bittermans, however, want a promotional film about oranges, so their Sugarpuss orange is squeezed into the tale of a pirate captain and his queen.

Sostek fills the stage with Spanish citrologists and French baddies, English viceroys and the fabulous Brothers themselves. He and the lovely Megan make the story whole as they play out the romance between the writer and the studio assistant who are acting out the pitch. Love and laughter, music and dance, mesmerising talent and enough charm to make a bracelet.

Kate Copstick