



The Glorious and Bloodthirsty Billy the Kid. (Page 150).

Drams None required.

Venue Gilded Balloon Teviot (Venue 14).

Address 13 Bistro Square.

Reviewer Marisa de Andrade.

Words will fail me to describe this display from the Wild West. For this is no fringe best. No, this show is destined for far greater things. **The Glorious and Bloodthirsty Billy the Kid** wouldn't be out of place on the West End or Broadway. So I'm urging you to book tickets for this show before they become like gold dust.

It's difficult to find a musical performance quite as energetic as this one. These cowboys exude vigour in every move. They're as explosive as it gets, right from the start. Set in what feels like a dated saloon, the eclectic cast announces its intention - to tell the true tale of America's favourite outlaw. The dynamic narrator subsequently brings Billy the Kid back to life as an innocent youngster, untouched by the hand of man. As soon as he's tasted the bitterness of reality, he's donned a disguise and grabbed his gun. The transition from pure to affected is remarkable. Aided by what appears to be a big budget set and magnificent soundtrack, Billy brings terror to the States and delight to the audience.

Lights, music and sound effects from the impressive ensemble emanate a slightly Moulin Rouge style. The humour is slapstick at times and the comedic timing faultless. Every action, each exchange is deliberately conveyed and executed with conviction. And as each blameless victim meets his end, he's transported to an after-life created through twisted body language, smoke and spotlights. The effect is as much eerie as it is enchanting.

The theatrical spectacle is uncanny, particularly when creepy fairground music ping-pongs in the background. You'll feel your tiny hairs prick up, especially when Billy takes his first victim, a loud-mouthed fraudster who provokes him to the point of no return. The magical Jack Malone manages to draw the spectators straight into the action by playing a card trick on an unassuming audience member. **The Glorious and Bloodthirsty Billy the Kid** is definitely one to look out for.

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Runs to 28 August at 17.45.

Company - Trilock Company in association with Fringe Management.