

"The Renaldo The Ensemble is a genre-hopping New York City-based band/performance art group with an extensive fictional back story. Lead singer Aldo Perez plays the fallen-from-grace Renaldo — he used to be Renaldo the Great, you see, but was stripped of his superlative. Now the love of his life, an operatic backup singer played by Jenny Lee Mitchell who dresses like a French maid, is forever cheating on him. Sung in languages including Spanish, English and Italian, the group's songs bounce from opera to hip-hop to rock. Some sound like scores to silent movies, while others humorously co-opt bits of other acts' songs. On 'Peacepipe,' a Jimi Hendrix-aping guitar solo is interrupted by the exclamation: 'Excuse me while I pan sear this salmon!' This eponymous six-song sampler is just the tip of the Renaldo iceberg, but still a nice intro into their absurd, hilarious little universe. 5 stars."

Ben Westhoff, Creative Loafing

"...And it was gratifying to discover a genuine stage presence in Jenny Lee Mitchell, who moves with the precision of a screwball comedienne, possesses an impressive vocal range and even plays the clarinet."

Elisabeth Vincentelli, arts and entertainment editor, Time Out

"Headlining is the thin-mustachioed, Chris Walken-esque Aldo Perez, whose most memorable line, parodying glib singer/songwriters, is probably, 'I wrote this song last summer, and I hope you do too,' and whose most memorable stage moment may be his playing a wood flute with his nose while wearing a severe dental lip retractor. His cohorts include Richard Ginocchio, with a bottomless deadpan as a bongo-playing valet, and Jenny Lee Mitchell, as a brittle, quizzical windup maid with a sharp, lovely voice... I wouldn't care what it should be called — I'd just urge you to go."

Rod Kendt, The Wicket Stage

"...Fronted by the play's star and creator, Aldo Perez, these instantly catchy tunes (replete with Perez's virtuoso nose flute) provided the perfect spine for the evening's surreally crooked ribs."

The Gothamist

"The Renaldo is Aldo Perez, a brilliant postmodern Renaissance dynamo who combines musical virtuosity, philosophy, clowning, and formal theater training with subversive, lusting, burlesque funniness. The Ensemble is a company of like-minded fellow travelers, modern day inheritors of the exquisite Commedia del Arte prerequisites of discipline, blasphemy, and zaniness. Oh, and did I mention TALENT? This is the real deal."

Leah Barber's Blog