

Summer of Blood – Rip It Up Review.

In this screwball theatre comedy, snobby but penniless author Simon and blokey B-grade actor Bruce conspire to solve their financial woes by churning out a cash cow in the form of a horror film script. But add a schlockmeister producer, a manipulative budding screen siren, and Simon's manic stand-up comedian sister, all of whom want their own input into the creative process, and things begin to spiral out of control as life violently imitates art.

Robert Armstrong's script is both a witty satire of low-paying high art vs. the potentially lucrative world of hack scriptwriting, and an affectionate tribute to slasher films – to the extent that the performances are occasionally interspersed with filmed scenes from the titular movie as imagined by Simon and Bruce.

A cinematically literate script, strongly differentiated characters, and a consummate cast mean that this production deserves a much larger audience than it received this night.

Rating: 3.5

Owen Heitmann

***Summer Of Blood* continues at Bakehouse Theatre – Main Stage until Sat Mar 1.**