

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

The Trillionaires

Directed by Kurt Spenrath
Starring Trevor Duplessis, Matthew Kloster, and Ryan Hughes
27 February - 9 March at 8pm (except Mondays); Sundays have 2pm Matinees
B-Scene Studios (8212 104 street)

"This is a comedy about greed, power, ham-fucking, and the Nobel Prize." Uh, right. A somewhat-truthful account of the Long Term Capital Management company, which had a significant influence on hedge funds in the '90s, *The Trillionaires* depicts what may have happened between the leaders of the enterprise, who amassed a global wealth of \$1.2 trillion before the US government stepped in, putting an end to both their monopoly and their deviant propensity for cold cuts.

Penned by first-time playwright Kurt Spenrath and starring several U of A BFA graduates, *The Trillionaires* contains "strong (and impressive) profanity throughout," inspired by the vulgar language of the Enron tapes. The play is perfect for theatre fans with an interest in comedy, investment banking, and porcine fetishes.

City of Men

Opens 29 February
Directed by Paulo Morelli
Starring Douglas Silva and Darlan Cunha
Princess Theatre (10377 82 avenue)

Based on a TV series of the same name that followed the events of the critically acclaimed, Academy Award-nominated 2003 film *City of God*, *City of Men* tells the continuing tale of two of the boys living in the violent and dangerous favela slums in Rio de Janeiro. Somewhat more light-hearted than its predecessor (though that isn't saying much), the film features several of the actors from the first film, many of whom had never acted prior to *City of God* and were actual residents from the slums in Rio, including the notorious *City of God* area.

Artists Emerge Dance Competition

Saturday, 1 March at 7:30am, Final Showdown at 8pm
Jubilee Auditorium (11455 87 avenue)

Putting a focus on Canadian hip-hop culture, this all-day dance competition will feature categories in both dance studios and professional crew battles, giving breakers a chance to showcase their skills to a panel of choreographers from New York and Los Angeles. The day ends with a final showdown where dancers will drop their funkier, freshest moves in a ferocious and epic struggle to stomp the yard.

After substantial macho posturing, ego tripping, and vigorous sass talk, many homeboys and punkasses are expected to get served, and several streets will reportedly be stepped up 2.

Crystal Castles

With *Health, Degree, and Acid Wash*
Monday, 3 March at 8pm
Starlite Room (10030 102 street)

Crystal Castles is so emo that they're not emo. This Toronto band, named after the Crystal Castle in the *She-Ra: Princess of Power* animated TV series, cite murder, knives, and blank looks on girls' faces as their primary influences. Yet the group is generating a lot of positive buzz among the music community with their experimental style of music and novel use of electronica, such as fitting a keyboard with an Atari 5200 sound processor.

The band's first single, "Alice Practice," received significant label attention after it got posted to their MySpace page in 2005. Since then, the Castles duo has toured both Europe and the US, and they did a stint last year supporting Metric.

JOHN KMECH
Ask for him by name



Skid Row still lapping North America

At least bassist Rachel Bolan is—while not touring with the band, he's speeding around a racetrack

musicpreview

Skid Row

With *Art of Dying and Kiro's*
Friday, 29 February at 8pm
Edmonton Events Centre

JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Hair metal stardom and drag racing go together like Motley Crüe and drug abuse. However, few people actually get to live the experience of kickstarting the hearts of 20 000 screaming fans in an arena and also blazing past the finish line in a dragster. But Rachel Bolan, bassist for veteran hard rock act Skid Row, is both a seasoned rocker and racer. His passion for driving started around the same time as his passion for music, and it hasn't slowed—even after being on the road for two decades.

"My older brother was into [racing]; he always took me to drag races and stock car races when I lived in New Jersey when I was a kid," the laid-back Bolan explains over the phone. "I became a Dale Earnhardt fan through him and got into NASCAR, which I still love. It's cool now because I know a lot of the drivers."

Born James Southworth, Bolan founded Skid Row in 1986 with current guitarist Dave "The Snake" Sabo. The band was one of the last hair metal acts to find success in the mainstream music market, as their self-titled

debut went multi-platinum, and the followup *Slave to the Grind* was also a major hit in the US.

Following some internal skirmishes that led to several lineup shuffles, the departure of singer Sebastian Bach, a hiatus period, and a number of drummer changes that Bolan describes as "very *Spinal Tap-ish*," the band has settled into a relatively stable lineup in the past few years, albeit with fewer terminal cases of '80s hair. The group has toured with some of the biggest names in rock, including Aerosmith, Guns 'N Roses, Tesla, and a certain group of face painted rock stars that Bolan describes as very influential.

"Doing the KISS tour—nothing has to be said about that, growing up as a KISS fan," Bolan notes enthusiastically. "[Gene Simmons] was one of my biggest influences. I mean, I didn't even know what the bass was [growing up], but I wanted to play with the guy that spit blood. We did, I think, 130 shows with them, and I must have watched them in the majority of those shows. It was great."

Unlike KISS, Skid Row remains an active band, releasing a new album, *Revolutions Per Minute*, in 2006. The group continues to tour and is writing a new album at the moment, and despite Bolan's continual involvement with the band, he finds time to act as a producer, and is also currently writing a book based on his experiences on the road, containing his memoirs and stories about the numerous rock stars he's met and celebrities he's almost partied with.

"The most interesting person that I almost partied with was David Lee Roth," Bolan recalls with a laugh. "I met him back in the day [at a club]. It was just a chance meeting, and he offered to buy me a drink. He ended up walking away without paying for the drink."

When not on tour with the group, Bolan devotes most of his time to his other hobby: burning rubber and capturing the checkered flag. His fondness for racing inspired him to start his own motorsports company, which allowed him a chance to go beyond his stage presence to connect with fans.

"I started Rachel Bolan Motorsports so that Skid Row fans could see what I do outside the band. I race cars called legend cars. I also race thunder roadsters and go-karts. Whenever I get a chance to race, I always put my schedule up so fans can hang out and watch me race. I still make a lot of noise, but they can see me do something other than jump around on stage."

After 22 years of high-octane performances, playing music still hasn't gotten old for Bolan. He says that he still gets the same thrill as he did when he started, and in that, there's a certain familiarity between his two lifelong loves.

"Racing and playing are so similar. Putting on my fire suit is like putting on my stage gear. Walking down the hallway is like getting ready to go onto the race track."

"It's the same thing: you hit that pedal, and it's like, 'Ladies and gentlemen, Skid Row.' Except I don't have to worry about flipping when I'm onstage."

TWO DECADES OF SKIDDING OUT

- While Skid Row's self-titled debut went quintuple platinum and had three hit singles, the success was bittersweet: they'd waived their publishing royalty rights to Jon Bon Jovi's Underground Music Company. Bon Jovi, along with associate Richie Sambora, got most of that cash, though Sambora gave it back after a very public dispute. Bon Jovi did not.

- In 1989, the band's then-vocalist, Sebastian Bach, was heavily criticized for donning a shirt that read

"AIDS kills fags dead" during a concert. A fan had tossed it onstage, and Bach put it on without looking. He later apologized and made a large donation to an AIDS charity.

- In 1996, Bach was fired, and a few months later, so was drummer Rob Affuso. Though Skid Row never officially split, the remaining members toured under the name Ozone Monday for a while, eventually reforming Skid Row in 1999 with new members. Bach went on to play in a

few other bands and dabble in Broadway theatre, playing Riff Raff in a stage production of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He was fired from the latter for his diva-like demands.

- Despite releasing two post-Bach albums, the band's still waiting for that next hit. Although Bach's gone on record saying he'd welcome an original line-up reunion, the rest of the band seem adamantly opposed.