

# arts & entertainment

## Mystery Bruises

by Cathy Jones

After hearing stories for years from my brother, Andy, about this maniac director he was working with in the late sixties in England, in a show that had him sticking nails up his nose, and had long-haired bearded cops stopping traffic to bring the whole audience out on the street for a dangerous explosion of a bomb on a guy's chest, I finally met Ken Campbell when he performed "Recollections of a Furtive Nudist" in St. John's in 1989.

I wasn't disappointed. I was astonished at the energy and outrageous talent of this man. Watching him perform, I felt like I'd gotten on one of those rides at Expo that you're sure just can't be safe.

In Britain, his productions and exploits in theatre over the last 25 years are near legendary. His solo shows are hilarious, mind-boggling trips into the bizarre world of a master storyteller.

Ken Campbell's new show is called *Mystery Bruises*. Explaining the title, Ken says, "You know, some-

times you go down to the pub, and you only have a few pints. Then the next morning you wake up and there're all these bruises—particularly on the hip area. So where did the bruises come from? Where have you been?"

In *Mystery Bruises*, Ken comes up with his own illuminating account of sub-atomic physics, quantum mechanics and the multi-universe theory, and, through a series of improbable conversations, teases his audience with impossible facts and theories until he finally brings them to his crowning interview with the 'King of Quark' himself, Stephen Hawking.

An award-winning talent, Ken is a favorite of John Cleese, who recruited him for *A Fish Called Wanda* and *Fawlty Towers*. He starred as Joey Smallwood's secretary in Mike Jones' *A Secret Nation*.

Ken Campbell graces us with his lunacy at the Sir James Dunn Theatre, Dalhousie Arts Centre, 8 p.m., September 21 and 22. Tickets are \$12 (\$10 for students/seniors), available at the Box Office (494-3820).



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