



Eat your hearts out, 'N Sync: From left, Andrew Burley, Scott Walters, Jon Paterson and Matt Alden of BoyGroove

Boygroove blasts off

Boygroove *****

BYOV J (Iron Horse Pub)

Girl, prepare to buck your hips. *BoyGroove*, a deliciously smooth musical comedy upstairs at the Iron Horse, is a 90-minute riot of singing, dancing and moronic pronouncements. Why be a hater? Get in line: the cynical one, the sensitive one, the stupid one and the gay one will make you—that's right you, girl—sit back, lick your lips and fall in love.

A knowing look at the music industry and the ridiculousness of pop culture

at large, *BoyGroove* is a lightning-paced antidote to every pain-themed clock watcher at the Edmonton Fringe.

Kevin (Matt Nden), Andrew (Andrew Burley), Jon (Jon Paterson) and Lance (Scott Walters) are *BoyGroove*, the hottest boy band in the world. Not that life is perfect for millionaire pop stars.

Controlled by a nasty producer and despised as wimps and counterfeit musicians by rival rapper Hypetastic, *BoyGroove* does encounter resistance in its drug-laced, sex-fuelled romp around the world. Aside from individual concerns, like really really wanting to go into

space, the biggest obstacle to the boys' happiness is, of course, North Americans' views on homosexuality.

With a script by Chris Craddock, relentlessly clever music by Aaron Macri, hot dance moves and some sweet pipes, *BoyGroove* is a King Kong of theatrical entertainment. The show could lose 10 minutes without losing much, but it's hilarious from beginning to end. The lighting and sound cues, the actors' instant character transformations and Craddock's knowledge of boy-band culture are astonishing.

Todd Babiak

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