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REVIEW: COWBOY VERSUS SAMURAI

By [SAM CAMPBELL](#) 11/16/10 10:47 AM

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Photo by Stephen Geffre

Opening in a time when the issue of American cultural identity is as hot button as it ever has been (the mosque near Ground Zero, racial profiling in Arizona) Mu Performing Arts' newest production, *Cowboy Versus Samurai*, makes us laugh where we hurt. While they may have taken a back seat to Muslim and Latino identities of late, director Randy Reyes shows audiences how Asian-American stereotypes are as prevalent and as important as ever.

The play begins with Travis (Kurt Kwan) and Chester (Sherwin Resurreccion) arguing trivially about how to pursue their identity as Asian Americans. Sherwin is over-the-top hilarious as a militant with no war no in sight. His own ethnicity unknown even to him and he is a walking hypocrite, criticizing everyone's every move while standing for nothing himself. Travis, who had the sharp sarcastic wit of a softer Paul Rudd, jabs in a superficially confident way throughout the play until the arrival of the beautiful (and perhaps more importantly, Asian) Veronica (Sun Mee Chomet). Drawing the attention of all men involved, including Travis's friend Del (John Catron), all inhibitions are portrayed on stage: from overt racial preference to undertones of self-hatred.

An easily digestible and agreeable play, *Cowboy vs. Samarai* offers the best of both worlds as it examines a heavy subject but keeps us entertained as well. All in all, it is a production worth seeing and keeps its momentum from beginning to end.

Read METRO senior editor Quinton Skinner's interview with Reyes [here](#).

Through Sunday, November 28
\$18 - 30

[The Guthrie](#)- Dowling Studio
818 South 2nd St., Mpls.

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