

REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

The Complete History of America (Abridged)
Call 757-671-8100

Hello, I'm Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large.

The Virginia Arts Festival and the Virginia Stage Company have joined forces to bring this talented trio back to town for a second visit. Last year they did books, this year it's American History. They did Shakespeare for over nine years in London. In the works is the Complete History of Hollywood.

Their comedy ranges from just plain sophomoric attempts to be funny to truly delightful sophisticated humor. It's the sophomoric stuff that I find tiring. I mean do you really like to go to the theatre and have the actors shoot water guns at you? Or do you really like to hear tired unsubtle puns that make the audience groan with pleasure? And then there are the scatological moments and genitalia gags to amuse and delight. Well, audiences obviously do like this sort of thing because these three guys sell lots of tickets where ever they go.

I think they under rate themselves. I find them at their best when they are not relying on the old tried and true vaudeville type comedy but explore the less obvious. Without a doubt they are highly skilled physical comedians. They roar through 500 years of history with manic, often hysterical, pace. They carve a special niche for themselves when the sophomoric humor is a veneer for real substance.

This is Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large and I'll see you at the next opening.