

Posted on Fri, Sep. 15, 2006

## A satire of politics, or of the characters?

By Toby Zinman  
For The Inquirer

The Internet comic strip *Get Your War On* by David Rees has been commenting on the war on terrorism by showing people in offices talking to one another on the phone or over coffee and doughnuts about the state of the world. The Rude Mechanicals of Austin, Texas, have adapted the comic strip ([www.getyourwaron.com](http://www.getyourwaron.com)) for the stage, using overhead projectors and five actors in suits, ties and high heels.

They provide an illustrated, damning chronicle of the Bush administration, starting in 2001 and tracing the war on terrorism through Afghanistan and Iraq, with excursions into the anthrax scares, Enron, the Katrina catastrophe, and Terry Schiavo. They show us how to "supersize the grief."

Much of the audience on opening night found the show hilarious, apparently untroubled by the smug superficiality of the political commentary. It struck me that this cheap cynicism was, perhaps, the object of the show's satire and that the meaningless, nonstop profanity simply underscored the bankruptcy of the show's thirtyish, middle-management characters. Or not.

*\$15. Tonight at 9 and Saturday at 7 and 10 p.m. at the Arcadia Stage at the Arden, 40 N. Second St.  
<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/entertainment/weekend/15520979.htm>*