



WCT'S 2023/2024 SEASON STUDY GUIDE: *BOOM YZ*

Written, directed, and performed by Rick Miller



**WESTERN
CANADA
THEATRE**

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The Play

Rick Miller returns to complete the BOOM trilogy with an exploration of “Generation Y,” aka Millennials, and “Generation Z.” With his signature performance style, dazzling impersonations, and mind-blowing multimedia, Miller yet again takes on over 100 voices, from George Bush to Lady Gaga to Leonard Cohen, while highlighting significant cultural moments from the past three decades, including Harry Potter, Dance Dance Revolution, iPhones, and social media. To close this multi-generational trilogy, the voice of Rick’s own daughter joins the story of his parents, partner, and friends to reflect the joys, aspirations and anxieties of young people today.

In BOOM YZ, audiences will continue this unique theatrical journey from 1996 to 2020. Floating and flying through the internet to find connections between global events, cultural milestones, and personal stories, Miller bring us up to present day—and this time the audience helps choose the future by voting on three possible endings. After experiencing BOOM and BOOM X the past two seasons, you won’t want to miss this final chapter of 75 years of history, politics, and music on our planet.

Production Team

Part 3 of the BOOM Trilogy (1996-2020)

Produced by Kidoons and WYRD Productions in association with Theatre Calgary and The 20K Collective

RICK MILLER: Writer / Director / Performer

JEFF LORD: Executive Producer

AIDAN WARE: Lighting Designer / Technical Director

NICOLAS DOSTIE: Video & Projection Co-Designer

IRINA LITVINENKO: Video & Projection Co-Designer

RICK MILLER: Video & Projection Co-Designer / Set Designer / Sound Designer

VIRGINIE LECLERC: Costume & Props Designer

CRAIG FRANCIS: Stage Manager / Dramaturg

MAEV BEATY: Script Consultant

RYAN CUNNINGHAM: Script Consultant

SÉBASTIEN HEINS: Script Consultant

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Logograph

MUSIC LICENSING: Michael Perlmutter (Instinct)

About the Performer:

Rick Miller - Rick Miller is a Canadian writer, director, performer, musician, educator and podcast host living in Toronto, Ontario. He is also the founder and creative director of WYRD Productions, and co-creative director of Kidoons Network. Rick has worked in five languages on five continents and has been called “one of the 100 most creative people alive today” by Entertainment Weekly. He has performed his own work in over 200 cities around the world, including almost every major theatre in Canada. For over 20 years, Miller has been involved in the creation of new Canadian theatrical work. Some of his writing credits include the *BOOM* trilogy, *Machomer*, *Bigger Than Jesus*, and *Frankenstein: A Living Comic Book*. Miller also performed onstage for all those titles, including the Canadian premiere of the Broadway classic *Venus In Fur*. *MacHomer*, Rick Miller’s first solo show, premiered at the Montreal Fringe in 1995 and ran for 17 years. His show *Bigger Than Jesus* won three Dora Awards, including Best Play and Best Actor. Music has always figured prominently in Miller’s work, particularly through his singing. His remarkably versatile voice has led him to play lead roles in music-based films, and musical theatre productions around the world such as *Mulroney: The Opera* and *Stage Fright*. Lately, he has been fronting a 10-piece party band called TRAINWRECK, in which he sings lead, and plays guitar and harmonica alongside his life partner Stephanie Baptist.



Rick’s Talk Backs

Part of the BOOM YZ performance is a daily talk-back that Rick Miller himself hosts! After every show he will arrive back on stage and answer a few questions from the audience, so make sure you come with questions!

Fun Facts

- BOOM, the first show in the trilogy, was the most presented new play in Canada between 2015 and 2017.
- BOOM YZ had its world premiere in October of 2021, hosted by Theatre Calgary
- BOOM has been performed over 400 times!
- BOOM YZ was nominated for 2 Betty Mitchell Awards in 2022.
- Western Canada Theatre has featured both BOOM and BOOM X in previous seasons, with BOOM at the Sagebrush in 2022 and BOOM X in 2023.
- The BOOM trilogy has been performed all over Canada, as well as at the National Taichung Theatre in Taiwan and at La Comète, Scène Nationale in Châlons-en-Champagne France

Activities

Engaging in these Core Competencies: Communication, Creative Thinking, Critical Thinking, Positive Personal & Cultural Identity, Social Responsibility

1. Kidoon Network is a creative production company, where Rick Miller is the creative director. It's a combination of online educational and live entertainment. This company is where the *BOOM* productions are born, as well as many online and live shows. Check out one of the Online Series available through this link and see what you think!
<http://www.kidoons.com/series>
2. Write and perform your own monologue! Rick Miller writes and performs his stories across Canada, and the *Boom* trilogy are a combination of stories from his parents, friends, family, and his OWN perspective. Think about a particular memory that is important to you and write it down like you're telling someone the story for the first time. Then, either perform it in class or in front of friends and family!
3. Have you ever tried the video game *Just Dance*? This is a great way to get classes up on their feet or have a blast at home – just search 'Just dance video' and a bunch of different songs will come up! All you need to do is follow the movements on the screen.

Post Show Discussions and Ideas

1. Rick mentions many significant movies, music, and pop culture moments that happen during the Gen YZ timeline. What was one that stood out to you?
2. What movie would you watch repeatedly as a child?
3. Rick discusses the use of cell phones and the impact of social media in this production – what do you think is the best social media platform? What makes a social media platform good or bad?
4. Discuss with your family (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles) what they think is the most important pop culture moment from their childhood, then compare it to what you think yours is. What's the difference between these? What is similar?

Works Cited:

[Home | Rick Miller](#)

[About the Rick Miller Show BOOM YZ | BOOM | BOOM \(boomshow.ca\)](#)

For more information about upcoming Western Canada Theatre productions, please visit our website: www.wctlive.ca