

One-man show packs pizzazz

The Ballad Of Monisch

Review by Storm Anderson

With his crackling wit and sizzling personality, club member Martin Green delivered his wonderful one-man musical with pizzazz. He captivated us with the riveting story of Monisch, a young Talmudic prodigy who is swayed to the "other side" (the devil). Marty wove the tale around wonderfully humorous lyrics, sparkling dialogue and beautiful music. Even though he was missing his accompanying performer – his sister – his intelligence and ingenuity more than made up for the loss.

Admittedly, a large percentage of the audience were skeptical of how the performance would be, but we were pleasantly surprised by the intrigue that Marty inspired. The warm ambiance



of the Winnipeg Press Club was the perfect setting for this more-than-dress-rehearsal. It was a brilliant idea to hold this event in this particular venue, and I personally feel that there should be more of these at "the Club".

Hearing Peretz's original Yiddish language intertwined with Martin's spirited translation in

English was beautifully poetic. The show moved along at a rapid pace and kept the audience along with it. There was a never a moment one wasn't captivated by Martin's jocular voice relaying the story of our hero, Monisch. I was particularly enchanted by the song titled "Up On the Mountain (auf'n Barg Ararat)".

The show itself was filled with insightful anecdotes based on the Talmud and humorous tales of Marty's experiences. The show is filled with musical analysis, and, as he says, "the fun is in the analysis", which I found to be very true. There was even a few memorable moments of "Math With Marty"! It was a truly enjoyable evening filled with laughter and song, all brought to us by the incredibly talented and unspeakably sharp-witted Marty Green.

From cosy to lively – a smorgasbord of events

MONDAY: Dec. 27 – Literary Lounge Lizards. Our monthly book club has decided to explore an Ann Rice book for Dec 27, 7:30 p.m. Care to join us? Look for the most exotic, erotic and scary Rice vampire tale you can find and come share your impressions. (Three chills for the vampire Lestadt!) Also bring your most recent book finds to share. We have great conversations over bubbles and a big box of chocolates.

TUESDAYS: The Tango group gathers at the bar at 7:30 for a short lesson and then they swoop and dive and twirl on the dance floor all night. It's free floor show! Bring your friends and enjoy the action with the lights low and the candles burning. The games areas if free for pool and darts all evening.

WEDNESDAYS: Al Andrusco Piano Bar. People start coming about 5:30 from work, order tasty pub food and appetizers, settle in with refreshments and then Al starts to play. Pretty soon the bistro is filling up and people are singing, including a surprising number who make their living by doing so elsewhere. Two important dates: Dec. 22, when Al invites a pile of special musical guests for his annual Christmas party and Jan. 5, when we invite all our new members to come down for a Meet and Greet and fun at the piano bar.

THURSDAY afternoon: This month we're having two special afternoon gatherings with bartender Bev Stewart, Dec. 9 and Dec. 16 from 12-

5 p.m. Her crew of old friends from the club have all been alerted and this should be a warm and wonderful reunion time. This is a great chance to come down to the club to enjoy a complimentary pub lunch.

THURSDAY evening, Dec. 9, 6-10 p.m. – Christmas Karaoke with Bonnie Stollard. Everybody knows the words to Christmas carols – even you! Get ready to sing carols and popular Christmas music by your favourite stars.

TGIF (Thank God it's Friday) Welcome to our special music nights at the club, starting at 4 p.m. for happy hour and complimentary snacks. Three important Fridays to enjoy:

DEC. 10 – Hot Cider and Christmas CDs:

Please bring your favourite Christmas CDs to play from 4-7 p.m. Christmas disco, Elvis, Ricky Martin, the funkier, the better! Club is booked in the evening for a private event.

DEC. 17 – a special night with live band

Quinzy. "They do cool pop originals in an Elvis Costello/Beatles vein, and some fun classic covers," says band manager Glen Willows of Harlequin fame. The Manitoba Audio Recording Industry Association (MARIA) web site says: "Quinzy... plays tightly constructed and melodic pop music. Sometimes, to the amusement of all, they get confused into thinking they play rock music. There are only three of them, so they all sing their

hearts out so as to seem like many." Check www.quinzyband.com for future shows.

(Club Closed Dec. 24 through Dec. 26. Opens Dec. 27 for monthly book club meeting.)

DEC. 31 – New Year's Eve Gala at the club! See the advance on Page 1 for details, and get your tickets fast!

Sneak Peak at Upcoming Entertainment for You

FRIDAY, Jan. 7 – Three Amigos. Coffee house atmosphere, harmonica blues, featuring great piano stylings – you'll love it after a week's hard work!

Jan. 21 – Karaoke with Bonnie Stollard. Our B&S queen offers her professional show to the Club once again, providing encouragement, background vocals and naughty commentary.

TBA: We're currently chasing Ed Brown, the cowboy poet, who's promised a gig, and another date with Kiva of Wyrd Sisters fame.

YOUR HELP: Do you know any people who would play, for the love of playing, on the stage in our fine venue? We'll pass the hat for their expenses (usually about \$50) but until we're firmly in the black, we simply can't pay scale for live music every Friday.