



“Downtown hipster raconteur Clay McLeod Chapman wears his heart on his sleeve – a bloody, still-beating organ safety-pinned to his cuffs. In *Lovers and Other Strangers* – four macabre monologues – Chapman’s trademark mélange of Rod Serling and Edgar Allen Poe meets modern dance, giant puppets and live jazz to joyfully creepy effect...

Dance and narrative dovetail best in *Michelle*. It in an intoxicating tale performed superbly by David Rhodes, about a redneck searching the woods for a neighbor’s teenage daughter who he secretly covets. The emotional complexities and narrative agility of this gothic *Lolita* are to be savored. Staged against three red curtains, with a similarly colored chandelier overhead, *Lovers and Other Strangers* reveals Chapman for what he is: a whimsical yet bone-chilling romantic.”

John DeVore – Time Out New York

“Charles Loffredo and his co-conspirator in crime, Clay McLeod Chapman, are holding forth at the Gene Frankel Theatre, turning the small stage into a Halloween world where ghosts and murderers lurk... The musical score, courtesy of Pat Rasile, also plays a strong role in establishing mood. And true to the mandate of his Moving Parts Theater, Loffredo has introduced other enriching elements to the program – seductive dance and giant-size puppets. For Chapman and Loffredo, it is a marriage of true minds, culminating in a production enhanced by Loffredo’s cast and design team... One hopes that the Loffredo-Chapman team will surface again and continue to thrive.”

Irene Backalenick – Backstage Magazine

“It would be simplistic to describe Clay McLeod Chapman's stories as disturbing. His words often trigger an assault to the listener's imagination using noxious imagery, but just as quickly they can instill affecting, even life-affirming notions. In *Lovers and Other Strangers*, four of Chapman's monologues are constructed as dance theatre, classic storytelling, and puppetry; along the way, disparate representations of "love" emerge. A fisherman's wife awaits his supposed return, a man obsesses over the 16-year-old next door, a dummy feels cheated by its ventriloquist, and, in the most imaginatively staged story, an old lady and a rabid fox dance the

night away.”

Stephan Paschalides – Flavorpill NYC

“The darker side of love gets explored in Clay McLeod Chapman’s *Lovers and Other Strangers*, comprised of four one-act plays which take a look at romance gone sour, all told in a seamless interaction of classic storytelling, dance theater and puppetry.”

John Rowell – Show Business Magazine