

# Theater

News &amp; Review

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## Mimes, Musicians Enthrall Enthusiastic Playhouse Audience

By Elizabeth Sutherland

The Great Salt Lake Mime Troupe, now performing at the Santa Barbara Playhouse, is without question one of the most purely entertaining and talented young theatre groups I've seen anywhere.

It is exciting to see performers possessed of such an abundance of vitality: not only are they energetic, they are both individually and collectively unique.

The group consists of 14 members, including the mimes, a fine ensemble of jazz musicians, and three supportive members (the manager, stage and lighting technician and a fire eater).

Although the group originates out of Salt Lake, they now call their yellow school bus home. By traveling through various states, they hope to secure the exposure and publicity which will eventually lead to financial profit and artistic recognition. From my perceptions and the response of the audience, they should not have any difficulties reaching their goals.

The show began with some extraordinary sounds from the musicians, who remained situated on stage during the performance. I found myself becoming so absorbed with the music that I almost forgot there was more to come. The



The Salt Lake City Mime Troupe is living out of a school bus, touring the Southwest and hoping "to make a lot of friends."  
(Photo by John Conroy)

musicians, who met at the Westminster School of Jazz in Utah, helped to bring about a fine combination of music and theatre.

The actors came together at the University of Utah School of Modern Dance, and they are brilliant. Katie, Mathew, David and George combined dance, mime, vaudeville and circus acts to increase the awareness and perceptive pleasures of each member of the audience.

Their exaggerated facial expressions and crisp fluent body movements are the essential each member also exhibits a

attributes of a successful mime; totally distinct personality and sensitivity. Katie, I felt, was particularly fascinating.

Groups such as this one need our support, and the best support we can give them at this point is to purchase a ticket for their show. They will have three final performances at the Santa Barbara Playhouse on Feb. 13, 14, and 15. While in town they are also giving demonstrations and teaching classes at UCSB. Tickets are on sale at the Playhouse at 124 W. Carrillo, 966-1061.