



NY Theater Reviews



Margaret Cho

BODY BEAUTIFUL

By Bill Stevenson

Margaret Cho is never one to do things half-way. Her new show, *The Sensuo* is uproariously funny-guaranteed to offend all those who need to be offended.

In her racy, raucous new burlesque show, **Margaret Cho** lets it all hang out-literally. Along with a diverse supporting cast of eight, she strips, dances, tells jokes, and celebrates the body in all its various shapes and sizes. Directed by **Randall Rapstine** and previously staged in L.A., San Francisco, and Chicago, the 90-minute show could use more of Cho's stand-up and less stripping. Nonetheless, *The Sensuous Woman* provides a bawdy time.

After an opening fan dance by the company, Cho does about 15 minutes of stand-up. She disses easy targets like Britney Spears, Senator Craig, and others in the news-but her jokes and delivery are so funny that I soon find myself in my eyes from laughing so hard. Among other things, she enumerates the differences between cruises for men and lesbians. On the latter, she notes, *They have a Peppermint Patty look-alike contest.*

Cho doesn't want to just tell jokes though. Having once been forced to lose 40 pounds for a sitcom that wanted to show that bodies of all shapes and sizes are beautiful. Thus her stand-up is followed by a sexy performance by a shapely dwarf, **Selene Luna**. Later on, the downtown performer **Dirty Martini** strips out of her striped ensemble and appears to pull a flag from a certain nether region. Cho herself shows off her breasts (adorned with tassels) and extensive tattoos.

It goes without saying that Cho's 21st-century version of burlesque-body-positive, gay friendly, thorough entertainment isn't for the prudish. Nor is it for homophobes or Republicans. After all, they wouldn't appreciate the cor-

routine of transgendered comedian **Ian Harvie**, who describes the effects of testosterone in outrageous c

But downtown types who love Cho's brand of randy, no-holds-barred humor will have a blast. She even does her famous impression of her Korean mother, recalling when mom chaperoned young Margaret and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. In her next stand-up act, Cho will no doubt reveal what her poor mother of this wild and woolly variety show.