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The Rise of Emperor Eric

When: Through 7/27: Tue 9:30 PM,

Price: \$12

The childlike charm of this loose, 60-minute comedy belies its self-assured wit. Billed as "a play chiefly concerning the delusional nature of white suburban males," David Ruthenberg's tale--in which young burger flipper/samurai Eric challenges the supremacy of the neighborhood "emperor"--resembles the warrior epics fifth-graders habitually act out in one another's backyards. But it also offers lots of sly, odd touches like narrators from the future who recount a millennium of cracked history in about two minutes, heroic Mexican pizza delivery guys, and the annoying yet authoritative Toaster of Torment, Timothy Bambara's ensemble plays in the best sense, their genial hamminess conveying a sense of freedom and fun that's infectious. -- Tony Adler

Buy Tickets

Gorilla Tango Theatre

WICKER PARK/BUCKTOWN 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave.

773-598-4549

gorillatango.com **** (based on 73 user reviews)