



THE RED PAINTBALL

at the Dorothy Strelsin Theatre as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival

Just ask Ted Haggard—this country loves to catch religious hypocrites with their pants down, especially the gay ones. This sanctimonious schadenfreude is seemingly shared by Laura and Alyssa Waldron, the writer-directors behind *The Red Paintball*, who offer a tedious farce about yet another closet-case Christian moralizer.

Set at a private Christian academy, five tartan-skirted and khaki-clad students are caught pelting their abusive principal with—you guessed it—a red paintball. The effeminate principal's inquisition soon gives way to his attempts at seducing the young male perpetrator—with less-than-hilarious results.

Oh, there's an odd chuckle here and there, but it isn't long before *The Red Paintball* descends into one big faggot joke. Giggly gay touching soon becomes predatory pawing as homosexuality is portrayed as both revolting and laughable. By juggling so many stereotypes without any real intelligence or insight, the crew behind *The Red Paintball* sadly seems to have shot itself in the foot.

Presented as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival

at the Dorothy Strelsin Theatre, 312 W. 36th St., NYC.

July 15–30. Remaining performances: Thu., July 17, 8:30 p.m.; Mon., July 21, 7 p.m.; Wed., July 30, 7 p.m.

(212) 279-4200 or www.ticketcentral.com.

Reviewed by Paul Menard

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