

'Kings' reign in monthly poetry slam at Prospect Theatre

By Elizabeth Warn
Editor in Chief



Photo by David Haung

Geoff Trenchard, Rupert Estanislao and Jamie Kennedy form the slam poetry trio, the Suicide Kings, that shocked and excited an audience of 150 at the Prospect Theatre on January 14. Hoping they will be invited back, they say that Modesto is filled with "fine women."

they take the audience on a roller coaster that plunges them into the open raw sewages of the human agony, and then redeems them into hope.

From running around in the audience with only their tighty whities on, screaming about being unashamed "plumper humpers" to talking about living with ex girlfriends and the bitterness of breakup, they manage to find a very precarious and delicate balance between the sacred and profane. Nothing is sacred and almost everything profane. "They were so outrageous and profane, but so clever and witty, I was laughing too hard to be offended," said Pierstorff. Their blend of profanity, sex, misery and tragic beauty make it apparent why they have been featured on HBO's Def Poetry Jam and have all placed consistently on San Jose, Oakland and Vallejo slam teams. Inviting the Suicide Kings to perform is almost like taking the bearded lady, an organ grinder's monkey and a drunk to a funeral, you know something is going to happen but it's just too damn funny to stop it. The Kings pistol whip poetry into the audiences' brains un-

loading banal truth. With more than the usual amount of people at the poetry slam, and the promise of mayhem to come, the local poets delivered their best performances yet and whipped the audience into anticipation for the featured poets. Tawny Holt, 21, a regular at Slam on Rye and a former MJC student who teaches art to children, took first place.

If you missed this month's slam don't worry. Every second Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the increasingly cozy Prospect Theatre, poets will gather to duel and a new nationally acclaimed poet will be featured each month. Get there early, at 7 p.m., if you want to sign up or to get a seat. Next month Karen Ladson, poet and coach of the San Jose Team, will be featured. For more information on upcoming slams and featured poets go to slamonrye.com. "We are testaments that sanity has got nothing to do with art," closed the Kings. Whatever it is that the Suicide Kings, and slam poetry in general, are throwing at Modesto, like heroin addicts, they keep coming back for more, panting for the next fix.