“Blue Man Group”

By Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton and Chris Wink
At the Hippodrome Theatre through January 12

By Princess Appau

BLUE YOUR MIND AWAY

Before the “Blue Man Group” begins at the Hippodrome Theatre and the mystery is revealed, the stage is hidden by a full, black screen. In the screen's center a quote from “The Social Synapse” by Nora Epinephrin and Sarah Tonin declares that the best way to forge a lasting connection with those of another culture is to create something together. Combined with the puns of the authors’ names, the quote's serious side foreshadows a show that touches the heart and teaches the mind even as it brings forth absolute hilarity. From beginning to end, this performance manages to be uplifting and educational even as it offers new ways of making theater.

The short scenes that make up the evening command the audience’s attention with a balance of humor and seriousness in activities like and unlike anything we witness on a day-to-day basis. Knowing that there is no plot relaxes us so we can just go with the flow. The Blue Men even manage to interact with the audience on multiple occasions.

Whether engaging in outrageous actions or simple yet familiar deeds, the men take chances to incorporate audience members whether willing or not. On one occasion, two of the Blue Men create art pieces with the unorthodox method of catching paintballs in the mouth and spitting them onto a canvas, while the third member manipulates a canvas to create an array of colorful orange and yellow patterns. One Blue Man later gives it away to an adolescent member of the audience.

Most would not consider this method a creation of art, and yet art results. The absurdity enlightens the audience that creativity can be an endless spectrum, reaching out to greater and greater lengths. Just because a man didn’t sit down with a paintbrush and a degree doesn’t mean it is not art.

Another Blue Man creates a piece of marshmallow textured blob which he showcases for $5,000. When his sale proves unsuccessful because no one in the audience wants the blob, he slips it in a lady's purse when she isn't looking. The resulting laughter speaks to the absurd prices put on some art pieces in our society. People tend to judge by the value and not by the quality. Most people today blind themselves to the obvious overpricing and assume that the piece must have some hidden higher value.

Another popular element of the group is its ability to incorporate and develop humorous operations from technology today. One Blue Man receives a phone call that he has purchased a GiPad Tablet; with one purchase he gets two for free. Therefore each man receives a tablet larger than themselves. The Blue Men perform their own parodies of popular apps, internet and media today. This ranges from cute-animal videos to the synopsis of books in SMS. The scene tells us
that not all technology and trends are good; on the contrary some innovations are actually regressive. The wacky parodies are actually exposing technological dependence and its ability to be a muzzle on the human mind and lifestyle.

An element of mystery runs throughout the whole performance, especially since there is no vocalization from the Blue Men. This is a major ingredient for the program’s success because it forces the both the audience and the men to come to a form of communication without words. Vocal speech has always been the most dominant method of communication and unfortunately on many occasions, words mask what is really meant. It is a valuable experience to learn to communicate without words because people learn the value of listening and action.

There is never a dull moment in the Blue Man Group’s performance; no matter your age or maturity, there is something for you to enjoy. And the Blue Man Group is not one to leave without a bang. For the final act a prerecorded voice tells the audience to stand and shake their butts while it sings of every possible word for the gluteus maximus. The Blue Men release large balls that change color constantly for the audience to pass around and play with. It’s just one more example of how the Blue Men use of humor to educate both the mind and heart with actions instead of words.

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By Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton and Chris Wink
At the Hippodrome Theatre through January 12
By Aria Eghbal

A SHOW IN SEARCH OF A THEME

The “Blue Man Group,” now at the Hippodrome Theatre, is an enjoyable variety show, though exceptionally chaotic. Though the comedy, music, art and technology aid in the storytelling, the organized chaos can distract from the raw talent that the show’s performers display at times. This disorder unnecessarily over-stimulates the senses. While some parts of the show need such energizing, the more delicate and nuanced scenes are overwhelmed by the hyperactivity. The makers of this show seem more concerned with entertaining the masses than creating a well-rounded and balanced performance.

There is no dialogue by the performers on stage, only random outbursts from an offstage voice which narrates vaguely relevant, animated shorts on screens hanging just below the stage’s proscenium. In one particular act, the Blue Men walk onto the stage with white PVC tubing, just as the screen lights up with animation. As the animation begins to discuss indoor plumbing, the percussionists start experimentally playing the tubes with their drumsticks. This goes on for a few minutes and turns into a show of its own.

Many of this show’s acts feel this way—they work individually but lack cohesion with other segments. There is no plot or storyline for the blue characters that links each short skit to the
next, and transitions often feel abrupt or unexpected. Nothing stays the same, including the characters.

It seems that the writers Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton, and Chris Wink intend their show to be cacophonous—with frequent strobe lights and loud noises—while simultaneously mixing in social commentary and nonverbal quips about our society. This incongruous mix is what seems, ironically, to hold this show together. Because the sequence of scenes seems arbitrary for the majority of the show, the viewer cannot easily guess what will come next, and that very unpredictability becomes the glue that holds the segments together.

The Blue Men change according to their environment, from acting childish and throwing breakfast cereal around to bringing a female audience member on stage and attempting to charm her at a mock dinner table. At times it feels as though the Blue Men are the same character, while at other times they act more like close friends.

It is difficult to glean any information about who they are from the action, since they aren’t static individuals. They go from displaying talent to experimenting with a new gadget just as a toddler would. Perhaps the writers created these simplistic characters on purpose, to prevent audience members from wasting too much of the show paying attention to the characters instead of the show. The price we must pay from this decision, however, is that we cannot label the characters as we normally would, as “funny,” “serious,” “strange” or “cute.”

This causes some confusion when the undefined personas come together, sometimes mimicking each other and other times each playing completely different roles. Instead of keeping a consistency in the identities of the Blue Men, the ambiguity of their characters keeps the audience on their toes, which has its plusses and minuses. While it is a nice change of pace to have to be constantly surprised by the characters, one sometimes longs for the consistency of a more typical show.

People don’t come to the Blue Men shows to relate to the lives of typical characters and yet they don’t come just to see the musical performances either. This is neither a play nor a concert; its classification lies somewhere in the limbo between the two labels. For example, in the scene where the Blue Men eat a dinner of Twinkies with an audience member, the Blue Men act as three friends trying to impress a girl. Just a few scenes later, however, they’re back to the routine act jamming out on the drums.

There is humor--literal and figurative explosions of paint and percussion--and strategically interwoven audience interaction to spruce up the more boring parts of the performance. This technique of incorporating the audience chips away at the familiar barrier between viewer and performer. When audience members are brought onto the stage to interact with the Blue Men, it begins to feel like less of a performance with separate viewers and performers and more like a collaboration. Though it’s good to see this, the length of the interaction often feels awkward and leaves the spectator checking their watch and hoping for the next scene.

After getting over the hump of the unnecessarily drawn-out audience participation skit, the rest of the performance goes much more smoothly. At a few points in the show, however, the humor
feels somewhat crude. For example, there is a song entitled “Shake Your Booty,” performed by Blue Man Group where the narrator goes through multiple names for the buttocks and subsequently tells the audience to shake theirs. It feels extremely juvenile, yet also amusing.

Additionally, the Blue Men put some of their audience members into strange positions, at one point even creating art by pouring paint onto a man and swinging him into a piece of paper backstage. While this seems slightly random, it does tie into themes present at the beginning of the performance, when each Blue Man creates their own work of art, wondrously, almost magically from a whole range of processes.

To conclude, while some parts of “Blue Man Group” tie into other parts of the show, the majority of the skits do not, leading to confusion. On the other hand, the loose structure is a major contributor to the show’s light and whimsical tone. Though “Blue Man Group” definitely isn’t the show to attend if searching for a well-rounded song-and-dance performance, it works well as a variety show, jumping from one subject straight into the next.

“Blue Man Group”

By Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton and Chris Wink
At the Hippodrome Theatre through January 12

By Charlie Fern

A TRUE BLUE EVENING

The idea of three men with their heads painted blue doing things such as shooting gumballs into someone’s mouth may sound idiotic. However, the Blue Man Group has turned such seemingly dumb things into a worldwide phenomenon. How do they achieve that? Through the classic principles of comedy: timing and delivery.

When one Blue Man shoots gumballs into another’s mouth, the victim’s confusion and overstuffed mouth make the audience laugh out loud. While this may sound very strange, it’s really quite reminiscent of the “Job Switching” episode of “I Love Lucy,” when Lucy and Ethel have problems with the conveyor belt at a chocolate factory. Like that scene, the silly visual gags, timing of the stuffing, and the reactions of the characters are really what makes the scene so entertaining.

For over 25 years, “Blue Man Group” has entertained audiences throughout the world with music, comedy, dance and audience participation. All of this is delivered by three silent men with their heads painted blue. This formula has been successful through touring as well residencies in New York, Boston, Chicago, Orlando and Las Vegas. Baltimore's Hippodrome Theatre is the latest stop on the group’s ongoing world tour.

When the Blue Men bring up a woman from the audience to have a feast with them, the trio go through numerous obstacles. One dimwitted Blue Man uses a fire extinguisher to put out a
candle. The woman is given a variety of offers, all turned down as the Blue Men make her uncomfortable to the audience’s absolute delight. Eventually, everyone is given a Twinkie, all of which are subsequently shuffled around, cut up by a chainsaw, or expelled from the chests of the diners, including the audience volunteer in the special blue vest given to her by the Blue Men beforehand. Despite no dialogue, the scene’s visual gags and the reactions of the Blue Men create a vaudevillian sketch that works tremendously well.

The show begins with the Blue Men playing and pouring spray-paint on drums, while the audience sees the paint rise up from the drums. The Blue Men then play with the GiPad and the apps it has to offer after shooting gumballs into one’s mouth and spray-painting a canvas. The trio also play PVC pipes, spray-paint another audience member, and throw a dance party with massive balls flying through the air. While these acts all seem extremely random, they are sequenced and transitioned appropriately, creating a solid flow. Each act is graced with a proper video relating to what’s about to occur on stage.

The Blue Men all have fantastic chemistry with each other, all having defined roles as either straight or funny men, even with no names. One of them always has a hard time understanding what’s happening and does things like drill a Twinkie or taking a while to catch on to melodies created by the other two. The completely emotionless reactions of the other two are absolutely hilarious, as you can tell they’re completely exasperated without moving their face. The characters are established through their actions. They all clearly have a difficult time catching onto things such as the idea of dinner, establishing their alienation from society.

The show’s technical elements bring the production to a whole new level. The Blue Men’s already bizarre antics are elevated with their misunderstanding of this technology. The video screens are used to help people see what’s going on in the audience as participants are chosen. The video screens also help create the GiPad segment, which has the Blue Men checking out apps on their new tablet, eventually landing the Blue Men in ridiculous outfits and with Captain Crunch boxes.

The dance-party finale has many colorful visuals almost resembling a dance floor presented on the screen, along with an animated figure shaking its rump. This adds to the party atmosphere created by the butt-shaking music and the giant white balls floating through the theater.

The Blue Men also use science heavily in their performance. The audience sees videos about subjects such as rods and cones in the eye and modern plumbing as introductions to segments like the spray-painting of an audience member. The videos serve as nice transitions between segments, but most of them are clearly just used to fill time.

The show does successfully satirize modern technology by having the Blue Men misuse it, such as when they are seen in silly outfits in the GiPad’s DigiEnhancer. However, they’re embracing it at the same time, as video screens are used in just about every scene. This somewhat contradicts the avant-garde principle.

One problem with the show is that it is much more mainstream than one would expect for an avant-garde theater group. Avant-garde is considered to go against the mainstream, but the Blue
Man Group embraces it as much as they parody it. One would not expect technology such as video screens to be used in such an experience. Segments like the GiPad and the dance party are entertaining, but the Blue Men are clearly trying to cater to a wider audience and might disappoint purists.

However, these segments also help keep the show contemporary and perhaps not stale for people who have seen the show over the years. For a group that’s been performing for 27 years, keeping things fresh can be extremely difficult.

The show has an exciting blend of both comedy and music that should delight everyone. One will gasp, laugh, dance, sing, cheer and maybe even go up on stage in just one performance. The Blue Men have take the typical vaudeville format of music and comedy and turn it upside down with everything from PVC pipes and Twinkies to gumballs and spray paint.

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By Sarah Fielder

NO ONE’S GONNA BE BLUE TONIGHT

If you are searching for a musical with a fantastic plot, brilliant costumes and “earth-shattering” sets, “Blue Man Group” is not the show for you. But if you are looking for an interactive performance that aims to get you involved and laughing, then this could be it.

“Blue Man Group,” now at the Hippodrome Theatre, aims to celebrate the human spirit and satirize human failings through the use of music, science, art and theater. The directors of the show often update their acts to keep it relevant. In this particular show, they emphasized the apps, DNA images and butt-dancing. Using these ideas, they create an entertaining show that provides wit and comedy but lacks a thought-provoking plot. Instead the performance is a combination of scenes with the same characters but unrelated meanings.

At one point during the show, the Blue Men mock today’s obsession with technology. They introduce the GiPad, a “ginormous” i-pad, which stands taller than all of the performers. Here, the Blue Men take a brain test that goes impossibly fast as it mocks classic stories such as “Romeo and Juliet” and “War and Peace.”

The men also play around with other apps that change each performer’s appearance, making one look like he is wearing ruffled pants and shaking maracas. This scene showcases the actors’ perfect timing. Each of the Blue Men must be able to keep track of what part of the scene is being performed so that they can stick out their arms or legs from behind the GiPad at key moments to mirror what is appearing on the screen and hand a different Blue Man a prop when needed.
The entire show is done without any of the main characters speaking. Blue Men performers for this show included Mike Brown, Russell Rinker, Ben Forster and Brian Tavener. Although there were only three actors on at all times, to keep an air of mystery, the production does not want to reveal which three. All of them do a spectacular job portraying their characters and creating comedy through facial expressions and movement.

They generate a lot of their humor through awkward pauses, standing and staring at each other. At one point they all win cereal boxes, and two of the men get the same sized cereal box, while the third man receives a box twice as large. He creates comedy by struggling to hold the box, and gripping it with his legs, and when he reaches in, he only picks up one piece of cereal.

If someone in the front rows comes in late, all of the activity on stage stops. A stage crew member comes out with a camera, filming the late arrivals sitting down while a horn blares, screens flash and an announcer says, flashing red and yellow screens and an announcer saying “You were supposed to be here 20 minutes ago.”

This is one more example of how the troupe satirizes human behavior. By exposing a mistake an audience member has made, they add humor to the situation by filming up close to them and running down to them. They are celebrating the mistakes that are a part of the human spirit.

This is just one example of the show’s ability to include the audience. Before the show officially begins, one screen has text rolling that the audience reads aloud, calling out happy birthdays to people actually in the audience. And during the show, the Blue Men create artwork with paint and marshmallows that are given out to people in the audience. The Blue Men periodically go out into the audience, and have spectators throw marshmallows for them to catch with their mouths or to pick volunteers to come up on stage.

One woman is chosen to go on a dinner date with the Blue Men. She playfully makes faces and accepts food from the performers, helping them open up their Twinkie bags. They also provide her with an apron, and after she ate a part of her Twinkie, the apron shoots out yellow mush all over the apron and table. Again here, the Blue Men find the humor in the situation and celebrate the unusual things that happen to humans, or that humans do. They eat the goo that comes out of the apron, and create a situation where the audience laughs at how disgusting it is. They celebrate the irony of human romance, how the date should end horribly after that, but continues.

Later, they enlist a man from the audience to come up and put on a jumpsuit and be taken backstage to create a painting. It is because of these audience members’ good attitude and willingness to go along with the actors that these parts of the show are successful.

Another major aspect of the show is its music. Since none of the main characters speak the music creates the mood and tempo to emphasize a character’s personality. Periodically throughout the show, the Blue Men create music using plumbing pipes. To make the music, they would use drum sticks and hit the pipes in different places and move the pipes that are connected. The sound the pipes make is hollow and resonates in the theater. They also have a band with them
doing percussion, stick, bass, zither, guitar and the drum kit. All of them are able to create a unique and distinct sound.

The production goes to great lengths to warn the audience of paint being sprayed out into the crowd and possibly being invited to stage. While the show also warns us of strobe lights, the music is deafening at times.

“Blue Man Group” is a show like no other, with the previous performers going out into the crowd and letting people interact and dance. But for viewers searching for a more meaningful show with a plot, it falls short of the requirements. Maybe if some of the scenes the Blue Men performed were connected, and they performed a wider range of emotions the show could have had a greater effect on spectators. Regardless, it is a performance anyone and everyone can enjoy.

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At the Hippodrome Theatre through January 12

By Janet Mberekpe

WHAT A BLUE MAN

When one first hears that the Blue Men do not use dialogue, one may expect their show to be boring. But it is one of the best shows in town. “Blue Man Group,” now at the Hippodrome Theatre, overcomes its lack of dialogue by combining silent comedy and music to give the audience an unforgettable experience. They overcome one’s negative expectations by heavily involving the audience with funny adventures and their curious personalities.

For example, the Blue Men invites a lady from the audience to come and join them for dinner. They all want to impress her by showing her different things like giving her some flowers and making her laugh. The lady plays along with what they are doing and it is funny to see how she really cooperates with them as if it were planned. This scene is similar to the real world because families usually sit down together at a table and have dinner.

This satire of human behavior is a running theme throughout the show. In another example, The three Blue Men bring out big cell phones and start to use the different apps. The scene shows how people are excessively attached to their phones and also it shows how much better people have become with technology.
The video text in the scene’s background gives guidelines to what is going on and compensated for the Blue Men’s lack of dialogue. For example when the text tells the audience to do a series of rock concert moves such as “wave your hands,” people stand up and obey the voice. People really like the rock concert moves because it gets them up to do something after one hour of sitting down. This really tells us that technology nowadays is very advanced and people can use it for anything.

One of the unique things about The “Blue Man Group” is its use of unexpected objects to create music. One of the objects they used during their performance was pipes made out of white plastic. The different positions of the pipes create different musical pitches. These unusual instruments help tell how talented the Blue Men are and how different they are from other people.

Anytime people start laughing, but the Blue Men do not laugh; they just keep a straight face which makes the audience laugh even more. The flashing, changing colors of the lights and the music going from high to low and low to high adds to the feeling that one is at a very strange rock concert.

A flaw that a person can easily notice is that while the skeleton people are texting, the audience in the back cannot see the content of the messages due to the position of the lights and cameras attached to the stage’s roof. They could have found a way to move the cameras and lights. This still does not affect the whole show because the good parts of the show overpower it.

Unlike all those musicals based on movies, one never knows what will happen next with the Blue Men. This unpredictability is a good thing because everyone is eager to know what will happen. For example when they take the lady volunteer from the audience, nobody knows what they were going to do with her.

The Blue Men are very curious and want to find out more about people. It is as if they were aliens coming to earth with their own traditions and cultures. They want to introduce us to how they do their own things and also learn how we behave. This lack of dialogue greatly reinforces this science-fiction aspect because people who do not have any language seem very different from us.

The “Blue Man Group” is mostly for young adults and adults because it has that element of rock the young people seems to enjoy. In the end, the “Blue Man Group” breaks the fourth wall unlike any other show and brings audience onto the stage to perform with them. At one point they bring up a man from the audience and take him backstage. They put some clothes on him on top of his clothes and put a big ball helmet on his head. Then they splashed some paint on him. The crew tied his legs and turned him upside down and hit him on a canvas to create a painting. This acknowledges that this audience is unlike any other, which makes the show one-of-a-kind as well.
“Blue Man Group”

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At the Hippodrome Theatre through January 12

By Arielle Morrow

NO NEED TO FEEL BLUE

Fun! Fun! Fun! is the only way to describe the Blue Man Group. They are the funniest mimes ever seen. Even without dialogue the show had you on the edge of your seat rising and inching towards the stage throughout the entire show. Without uttering a word, the Blue Men’s gestures told stories and provided lessons. The Blue Men never talked but they did use instruments, visuals on the screen and miming skits to tell tales and to explain different types of art to the audience. “Blue Man Group,” now playing at the Hippodrome, is definitely a recommended show to see.

The show started with an introductory song created by plumbing pipes and paddles that made unique sounds. After seeing the variety of objects and instruments use to create a song, it was hard to look away from the stage or even blink.

Then the Blue Men began to create artwork with paint and drums. The drummers on the ends poured red and yellow paint on the drums and the middle drummer beat on them, making the paint jump up like lava shooting out of a volcano onto a canvas to make a work of art. Then the center Blue Man threw paint balls into the mouth of the Blue Man on his left who used his mouth to spray paint a design onto a blank canvas.

On the other hand the Blue Man on the right could not spray paint the canvas, but he caught a lot of paint balls and spit them out into a small sculpture that looked like uncooked dough looking like sculpture. Even though his work was not at the same level as the others, he loved it. This sends the message to be proud of your work and creativity; it is good to be different.

On giant iPads called GiPads, the Blue Men digitized themselves so they could come in and out of the screen. This tells us that our technology is getting better each day and becoming more fun to play with. Then they located a couple people who walked into the theater late and called them out with a ringtone and a song. The Blue Men flashed lights and had the camera follow the latecomers to their seats. This was entertaining because they stopped the whole show to acknowledge the latecomers.

The Blue Men also integrated education into their act when the computer started to talk about eyes and how they see. They mentioned how the eyes see images upside down but the retina corrects it. Also they mention that we have rods and cones in our eyes, rods let you see black and white and cones allow you to see colors. While this is happening the performers were playing these body instruments that looked like plumbing tubes going around them. These instruments
were glowing neon-bright and making unique sounds that sounded like many different types of drums coming together.

The Blue Men began to construct more artwork as the show went on. This time they used a volunteer from the audience to make a body portrait. They splashed blue paint on the front of his body and tied his feet up and had him dangle, then they pulled him back and let him hit the canvas to make a print. After that they spray painted pink around the frame of his body to create art.

They displayed some comedy when they pulled they woman from the crowd and acted as if they were on a date with her. This scene filled the whole theater with laughter. She was confused the whole time. The one Blue Man tried to light a candle with a lighter but it was extinguished by the other Blue Man. When they started to eat, the main course was Twinkies. All the Blue Men were confused, not knowing how to open the pack, so they started to shake and beat the Twinkies on the table.

While they are all confused their guest already had her Twinkie open and offered to open the rest. This was like a real date when one person feeds another. As each Blue Man got his Twinkie open he gloated to the next. As they were eating their suits started to spit this substance, which had you wanting to turn your head because it was gross but you could not because you just had to know what was going to happen next.

Then it really got exciting and fun. The whole theater just turned into a giant party. Lights were flashing and racing throughout the theater. The ginormous balls were tossed into the crowd and they started to turn blue, yellow, red, orange and green. The screen gave you all of these rocking moves to do; at the same time they were trying to get you to shake your rump. Silly string and toilet paper were flying everywhere.

In conclusion, this is the show to see. It kept your belly laughing, your eyes open and your body bucking. Never once did you get bored. Not one word comes from their mouths but the Blue Men’s actions tell stories and give lessons. The "Blue Man Group” is definitely one of the top shows ever seen.

“Blue Man Group”

By Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton and Chris Wink
At the Hippodrome Theatre through January 12

By C.J. Roebuck

BLUE MY MIND

The “Blue Man Group,” now at the Hippodrome Theatre, is an anomaly in the theater world. Since its inception in New York in 1987, the troupe has been making audiences laugh, marvel and move. What is most impressive about this is that the show does so by utilizing only three
main characters and no dialogue. This may sound very strange, but so is the world of the Blue Men.

Take an average dinner scene. There’s a table with four places set. There are forks, knives and plates. Behind the table is some nice plain wallpaper. Four people are just casually sitting down and eating a standard meal while engaging in light conversation. This is a typical scene in all of our everyday lives. Now replace the four normal people with three men painted blue and one nervous member of the audience. Replace the normal dinner food with Twinkies. Replace the light conversation with total silence. Throw in a fire extinguisher, a radio and a jello catapult, and you have taken one step closer to entering the universe in which exists the “Blue Man Group.”

The backwards dinner scene described above is just one of the show’s many random episodes that take normal reality and flip it backwards. Aside from being entertaining, these alternative scenes shine a new light on activities people often take for granted.

The backward realities of the Blue Men’s world serve as a perfect complement to the other incredible visual spectacles that fill the stage. As an audience member, you then find yourself looking past the characters to study every single detail in the scene because they could all be important. This gives the show a creative freedom unlike any other staged production. It does not seem to be improvisational, but it certainly is not fully choreographed either. That is what keeps the spectator engaged, and that is the brilliance of this sensory experience.

Because there is no dialogue, the production depends on other means to keep its audiences entertained. Banging drums to make paint fly or sliding PVC pipes to make music are just two other ways in which this show takes everyday objects and turns them into tools for entertainment. This adds a degree of novelty to this show because it again makes you look at the items in your life in a way you never would otherwise.

On top of this, there are incredible lighting affects (including strobe lights, so be prepared) and also ridiculous gimmicks that turn simplicity into an art all its own. One example is the standard marshmallow toss game. If you have a bag of marshmallows and a friend, you can entertain yourself by trying to throw a marshmallow in that friend’s mouth. If executed successfully, this usually results in your friend getting to eat a marshmallow. Completing this successfully would of course be much harder if your friend already had 10 marshmallows in his mouth, but that is again just our simple real world reality.

In the world of the Blue Men, not only do they make a scene out of throwing marshmallows into one of the Blue Man’s mouths, but that Blue Man then tries to sell the massive ball of fluff he somehow manages to fit between his cheeks into art because that is apparently acceptable in the world of the show. You can be amused by this, disgusted by it or see it as a social commentary on art and gluttony within our everyday society. It is this open-endedness that makes the show so fascinating. The Blue Men’s experiences can be whatever you want them to be.

On top of some of the ridiculously quirky things that this show does, it also does a good job of poking fun at some of the quirkiest and more ridiculous parts of everyday life. For example, the GiPad (short for “Ginormous iPad”) makes light of how ridiculous some of our own technology
is becoming. In that scene, the three Blue Men each play with their GiPads including apps that make fun of real-world brain training apps by just being so big and exaggerated. As a prize for beating one of the games, the three Blue Men each get a box of Captain Crunch cereal, which they then proceed to eat in such a way that their chewing takes on musical qualities. That is just how it goes in the world of the Blue Men.

Buying a ticket to see this show is buying a ticket to step into that other universe. Because of the tremendous audience participation aspect of this show, buying a good stage level ticket gives you a chance to literally be taken into that universe (if you’re lucky). Because of the lack of dialogue, this show is really very accessible for any and all ages. Between lights, paint and video displays, this show covers all bases in terms of visual media. It also breaks new auditory ground as it combines traditional band elements with new ones like instrumental PVC pipe music to create a sound totally different from anything you would ever hear on the radio or anywhere else for that matter.

When billboards advertising the “Blue Man Group” say “Experience the Phenomenon,” they are not kidding. The backwards reality of the Blue Man’s world is rooted in our own, but it is so different, so odd and so spontaneous that you will never find yourself short of things to marvel about. It will make you laugh, it will make you wonder and it will make you look at your everyday experiences a little differently all at once.