



# STUFFED AND UNSTRUNG

**Stuffed And Unstrung**  
**The Union Square Theatre**  
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—by Ani Cutt

NEW YORK, NY—Jim Henson is quite possibly the greatest puppeteer that has ever lived, and his son follows in his father's footsteps. I got there a little early, just to see if it would help figure out what I was in store for. It did. As soon as I walked in, the ushers were some of the nicest I've ever come in contact with and alcohol was practically shoved directly into the audience's livers.

There was loud music, ranging from No Doubt to The Charlie Daniels Band, and neon lights everywhere, and the whole mood was upbeat and exciting. Finally, after about 20 minutes, an opening video popped on the two huge projector screens. It was the two "producers" of the show—actually two puppets—on vacation warning us about how shitty the show was going to be and how it was a waste of time. Needless to say, it was a hilarious start to an unbelievable show.

After that, our host Patrick Bristow came out and explained how the show was entirely improv and the more we participated, the freakier the show would be. The first improv skit was a little slow, but let the audience have a peak at what we were to see. The improv was good, but nothing was better than the skit that involved both the Vatican and the TV show *Jersey Shore*, in which they took a key character of the show, "The Situation" and renamed him "The Confession." I was crying from laughing so hard.

Then another video came up on the screen, this time it was a classic 1956 skit, *I've Grown Accustomed To Your Face*, performed by Jim and Jane Henson. It was entertaining enough by itself, but the puppeteers performed the skit along with the video live on stage.

As if this show wasn't inappropriate enough, the puppeteers figure out how to

turn aliens in an Eastern European hostel smoking weed to a squirrel giving the aliens blowjobs. Then, in the next skit, they brought a couple up on stage and reenacted their first date. It was very revealing to say the least. The couple hit the buzzer when the puppeteers got something wrong and a bell when they got it right. It's amazing what people will admit to when they are on a stage.

They brought another audience member up to be an actual puppeteer, and the guy did pretty well. The only issue was that he wouldn't hold the puppet's head straight, and the professionals ate him up for it.

After they finished all the audience members' skits, they jumped right back into the basic improv. I'm apologizing now to anyone sensitive about this but they figured out how to turn Sarah Palin into a scientologist. I'm sure anyone's imagination can come up with what that was like.

Finally, for the closing skit, they were a high school cheerleading squad. Long story short, it was R. Kelly High School's Home Of The Fighting Golden Showers with the motto "Cover Your Eyes!"

Having the opportunity to see both the puppets and the puppeteers did not distract from the show at all. One particular audience member said to me in the middle of a skit, "I'm finding it hard to remember that there are puppeteers," and he was absolutely correct. It was obvious that it was an improv show, and that these puppeteers knew what they were doing. I can't think of a single skit I didn't laugh during or a single moment where I felt like I didn't want to be there.

For a night on the town, this show is well worth the money, the comedy is well worth the time, and you will walk out feeling just a little dirtier than you did when you walked in. The booze was affordable, the seats were comfortable, the people were nice and most of all it may just be the best time you've had in a while.