

# Candy-coated circus maximus

SMH, Sat. 19. Nov. '05



Choice cuts ...  
Jess Love, DJ  
Garner, Azaria  
Universe in  
*The Candy  
Butchers*.  
Photo: Lisa Wiltse

## PHYSICAL THEATRE

### The Candy Butchers - A Circus Sweetmeat

The Studio, November 17  
Reviewed by Lenny Ann Low

The first thing that strikes you at

inspires inclusiveness for the floss-eating audience.

As a result, when The Candy Butchers begin the actual show, after dissolving into a fractious off-stage melee, the circus action almost sneaks up on us.

As set pieces of violent fun ensue, including fork-stabbings in

around their bodies to brake.

Not only do these four performers and co-creators perform awe-inspiring and exquisitely executed physical feats, including balances, acrobatics, double-trapeze and hula-hoop work, they taunt, tease and poetically entertain us with

as the group's well-honed circus skills.

The stropky and spunky Universe and Love have a particularly strong stage relationship rooted in power play and mischief while Ives corrals the cast, and his own peculiar attraction to dormant stage

stitching, as it is described in the program notes, is a fantastically rousing, freaky and distorted blend of traditional Japanese, hillbilly and circus music, drum rolls, the rabble of a circus sideshow crowd and original composition.