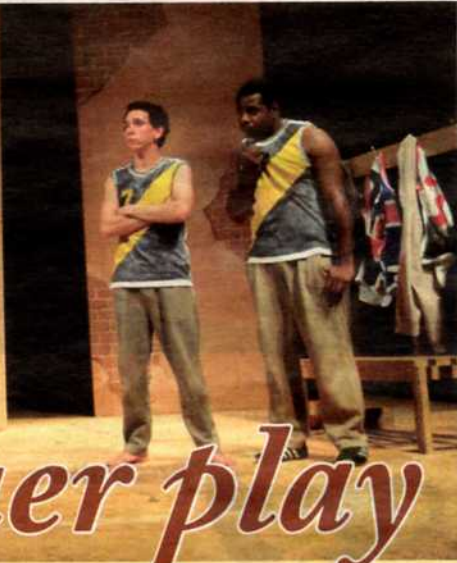
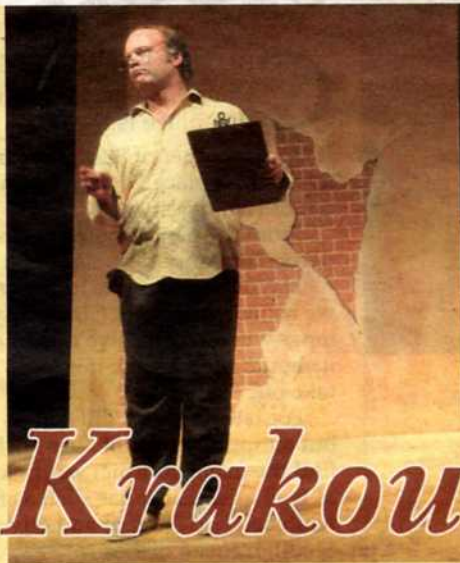
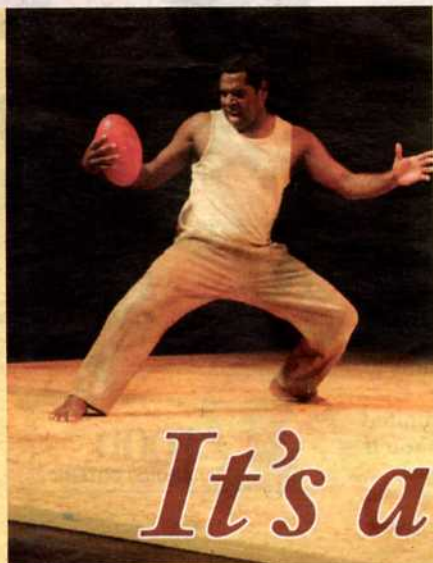




Weekly spotlight on what's hot in the Fremantle region



It's a Krakouer play

by JENNY D'ANGER

• Photos
by Dave
D'Anger

WHEN I first heard about Krakouer at Deckchair Theatre I thought it was a play about Guy Fawkes' night.

I'm only in the office footy tipping so I can collect the wooden spoon and I'm on target for a new kitchen utensil, coming a clear last.

So the idea of a play about a couple of guys kicking a pig skin around was about as riveting to me as a singing ex-prime minister.

How wrong I was – from the minute I smelled Dencorub permeating the air at Fremantle's Victoria Hall *Krakouer* I was gripped.

Based on Sean Gorman's *Brother Boys* it follows the highs and lows of Jimmy and Phil Krakouer, from kicking around the paddock in Mt Barker to playing for North Melbourne and Jimmy's eventual downfall for drug trafficking.

You don't have to be into footy to enjoy this; it's a great social comment and at times my toes curled at the on-field racial abuse that wouldn't be tolerated today.

The final whistle had me thinking about Ben Cousins, the adulation and big bucks footballers earn – and burn – and how quickly it can all be followed by personal tragedy.

The play has its tense moments but there are plenty of laughs too, making *Krakouer* a brilliant show that even Paul Rigby, founder of the Anti-Football League, would enjoy.

It's on till June 20, tix \$35 full. Booking admin@deckchairtheatre.com.au or phone 9430 4771.

by BRENDAN FOSTER

UNLIKE colleague Jenny D'Anger I am an appallingly sycophantic fan of Aussie Rules.

So when the chance arrived to see a play about footballing gods Jim and Phil Krakouer I was there quicker than a Dockers fan at a post-game wake.

And I almost spilt my beer when the brothers on whom the play is based, who began their careers in the dusty paddocks of Mt Barker, sat right next to me.

This is a yarn of Shakespearian proportions because it is a story of adversity and stellar ups and downs. And it is bloody funny. It will challenge people's assumptions of footy and of the two brothers.

It follows their rise to the top of their game; daring and resilient both on and off the sporting field, and the controversy and challenges that have met them throughout their lives.

When the play entered the dark period of Jim's life I could sense Phil fidgeting in his chair and I almost felt compelled to reach over and gently place my hand on his shoulder.

And, reminiscent of their electrifying days in the VFL, when the pair took to the stage after the play the crowd rose to give them a rousing ovation.

It was a warm and passionate embrace equivalent of a homecoming, which reduced myself, writer Reg Cribb and many other punters to tears.

