

Isis and Vesco Investigate the Curious Death of Dr. Freud

July 16, 2014 by [Jeffrey Walker](https://dctheatrescene.com/author/jeffrey-walker/) (<https://dctheatrescene.com/author/jeffrey-walker/>).

The mythology of ancient Egypt and a police procedural might make strange bedfellows but the fine folks at Guillotine Theatre make the combination work in a delightful way with *Isis and Vesco Investigate the Curious Death of Dr. Freud*. The mighty Isis herself joins forces with a convicted felon, now consulting for the NYPD, to solve crimes. The show is *Isis and Vesco Investigate the Curious Death of Dr. Freud* and the results are fine indeed.

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Sun King Davis and Cate Brewer (Photo: Suzanne Parisi) Click for tickets

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Wait – how did the revered goddess of old Egypt get on the elite law enforcement agency? Very easily, according to the savvy script by Monique LaForce. Filled with references to the myths and traditions from the time of the pharaohs, LaForce gives her actors juicy verse to chew on as they bridge the gap from the classical times to modern day cop dramas. There is plenty of “Law and Order” and some good doses of “Moonlighting” and “Remington Steele” (Some of us remember those shows, I hope.) Those star-crossed pairings come in handy as the central relationship here brings together a go-getter female cop and a charming ne’er-do-well who has the hots for his partner.

Director Carl Brandt Long picked two winners as his title twosome. Cate Brewer, as Isis, effortlessly shifts from ceremonial verse with regal bearing to hard-boiled yet sexy cop. She can also rock a pair of diaphanous goddess wings. As her foil, partner, and wannabe love interest, Sun King Davis could charm the sphinx into giving up secrets. He is smooth and cool as Vesco, guilty of some felonious securities trading and now assigned to Isis as a consultant. A bit far-fetched perhaps, but the idea works. The dialogue between Brewer and Davis crackles with sexual tension, a credit to their performances and to LaForce’s script.

Isis and Vesco Investigate the Curious Death of Dr. Freud

by Monique LaForce

75 minutes

at Redrum – Fort Fringe

610 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20001

[Details and tickets \(https://www.capitalfringe.org/festival-2014/shows/371-isis-vesco-investigate-the-curious-death-of-dr-freud\)](https://www.capitalfringe.org/festival-2014/shows/371-isis-vesco-investigate-the-curious-death-of-dr-freud)

Isis is not the only Egyptian deity to make the scene. The lord of the underworld and former husband of Isis, Osiris – personified with plenty of bravado by Paolo Santayana – steps in and out of his nether regions to add to the plot. It seems he is on an assignment for the representative of balance and the law, Maat, another refugee from Egypt, played with comic gusto by Michelle Hall-Norvell. Part of his assignment is to obtain drugs from none other than that pioneer of cocaine and psychoanalysis, Dr. Sigmund Freud. Stakes are raised, crimes are committed and investigation follows, tying up the strands and leading everyone through a web of entertaining intrigue.

As the good doctor (and in a memorable dual turn as rival Dr. Jung), Terence Aselford is a scene stealer. As he questions Osiris, Aselford and Santayana give a master class in timing and reaction, two keys to playing comedy brilliantly. Special mention must be made for the masterpiece of a costume Miranda Creason designed for Osiris, complete with royal crook and flail and that unique headdress we've all seen in Egyptian art and statuary. The flail, by the way, becomes a clue in the investigation. To say more would ruin some clever twists and turns.

Suffice it to say, *Isis and Vesco* works on several levels, as both a spoof and as a well-written and executed mystery play.

The cast is rounded out by Catharine Aselford as the de rigeur medical examiner (who has a secret!) and Katie Jeffries in three roles that showcase a delightfully zany range – a Noo Yawky receptionist, a fallen Southern belle hooker and a neutral bartender.

Long also deserves a shout out for a sound design that is jam-packed with music perfectly suited to set the scene, comment on the action and provide proper atmosphere in the run-down Redrum venue.

Hopefully, LaForce and Guillotine Theatre will consider bringing this show back for an extended run. It deserves full houses and not just at Capital Fringe.

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About Jeffrey Walker

Jeffrey Lee Walker has lived in both southwestern Virginia and the northern region of the Commonwealth. A graduate of Roanoke College, Jeffrey worked the non-profit arts community in the Roanoke Valley and managed a weekly newspaper for several years. He began his second career as an educator in 2002 and now teaches theatre arts in Fairfax Co. He has written for DC Theatre Scene since 2012, and is continually amazed by the depth and breadth of theatre in the Virginia, Maryland, and Washington DC region. He is a member of the American Theatre Critics Association. Follow him on Twitter: [@jeffwalker66](https://twitter.com/jeffwalker66)

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