

arts and leisure

MELTDOWN

"THE TRICKLE-DOWN EFFECT"

By Kenneth Brown
Meltdown is not some dire warning of

the consequences of a nuclear accident. In this case, Meltdown refers not to destruction but to the creative process.

Meltdown Performing Arts is a non-profit musical theater company that debuted three years ago, and currently is headquartered at Coney Island's Sideshows By The Seashore. Artistic directors Bronwyn Rucker and Rick Russo have returned this season with the next installment in this rather curious, provocative and always surprising series this time entitled The Trickle-Down Effect.

The offering may best be described as experimental in nature and is certainly unique in the arts world.

According to the husband/wife duo that conceived it, the show "explores developmental procedures of synergy, spontaneity and simultaneity, based on varied theme and artistic disciplines." The cast includes Russo and Rucker, along with Laurie Bullock, Bob Goldberg, Michael Mayer and Jennifer Shaney.

Founded in 1983, Meltdown Performing Arts, Inc. is devoted to exploration of

all the arts. Past projects have included Club Melt, a traveling dada/futurist production; Antic Meltdown, a large scale outdoor happening; and Inclines, described as a developmental performance work. In June of 1986 Meltdown started its own record label with the historic production of John Cage Meets Sun Ra. The two performers were featured in live shows at Sideshows.

Meltdown Performing Arts has presented numerous performance events at Sideshows including Vaudeville Meltdown and Meltdown Month. In the past, shows have included such ground-breaking or outrageous acts—depending on your point of view—as one in which Russo covered himself in aluminum foil and baked on the Boardwalk. In other performances, the troupe creates a cacophony by banging instruments and objects in no discernable pattern. Not all the offerings are quite this singular, although each is a unique experience unto itself.

The Trickle-Down Effect will be presented as Sideshows, on the Boardwalk at West 12th Street, on Fridays, September 12 and 19; Saturdays, September 13 and 20 and on Sundays, September 14 and 21. Showtime on each date is at 8 p.m. and admission is \$4.

Sideshows By The Seashore is operated by Coney Island, USA, a nonprofit museum and theater which boasts of being the only live performance space in Coney Island. Inside the rehabilitated and reconstructed former penny arcade, visitors will find a wealth of antiques and memorabilia relating to the nation's most famous seaside resort community. Dick Zigun is the founder and artistic director of Sideshows, Costa Mantis is the chairman.

Additional information and reservations to The Trickle-Down Effect, or about upcoming shows at Sideshows, may be obtained by telephoning 372-5159.

