



## Entertainment :: Theatre

### Jesus Ride (FringeNYC)

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Michael Schlitt in Jesus Ride.

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Michael Schlitt may be one of the most knowledgeable unordained people about the life of Jesus Christ, and he learned it all at the movies. Schlitt takes audiences on an elaborate digression for his solo show **Jesus Ride**, but it's a journey worth taking.

Schlitt was waiting around for Hollywood stardom working in a Sony department whose complicated weave of responsibility and technology means it rarely produced anything, when a project came through the door: Create a movie for the visitors to a Christian television network's theme park to experience the life of Jesus day after day.

As an atheist non-practicing Jew, Schlitt did what any film geek would do: He rented every movie about Jesus he could get his hands on. (Oh yeah, and he also read the

Gospels, which is more than some people who profess to be fans of the guy.)

His self-educated background in Christianity helped him very little dealing with his perfectionist director, absurdly hands-off boss and other office nuisances, but it makes for a behind-the-scenes tale with a philosophical slant. With detours through porn, post-production and anti-Semitism, Schlitt's detours are almost always hilarious.

"Jesus Ride" is part of the New York International Fringe Festival. For tickets and more information, please visit [fringenyc.org](http://fringenyc.org).

*Ellen Wernecke's work has appeared in Publishers Weekly and The Onion A.V. Club, and she comments on books regularly for WEBR's "Talk of the Town with Parker Sunshine." A Wisconsin native, she now lives in New York City.*

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