

## Janice Perry is a hoot

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*By Jim Lowe Staff Writer*

MONTPELIER — Janice Perry is a hoot! The Vermont comedian has been presenting irreverent sexually charged comic one-woman shows for 25 years, and now she wants share them all with you — in one night. Lost Nation Theater is presenting "Janice Perry aka Gal: 25 Years on Tour," through this afternoon, as part of its Winterfest '08.

Perry is a genuinely funny woman, whose take on life, sex and politics resonates particularly well in Vermont. For, although her commentary is in-your-face and sometimes raw, it's fairly "politically correct." She enthralled an enthusiastic near-capacity crowd Friday as she regaled them with her zany tales of her many tours.

One of the funniest moments didn't even have sexual connotations, and it wasn't even terribly political. When Perry was performing in London during the invasion of Grenada, a heckler yelled "Imperialist!" Perry, true to form, retorted "Who do you think we learned it from?"

Perry is a veteran showman, having taken various versions of her show around the United States and Europe. The key to these shows' success is Perry herself. All-too-human, she reacts and reels, and finally laughs at the blows life has delivered her. And she takes the resulting philosophy to apply to the rest of the world.

Perry's targets include Reaganomics, George I and Bill Clinton, among the politicians. Her discourse on the National Endowment on the Arts-Robert Mapplethorpe-Jesse Helms debacle was particularly fun. Between videos from her previous shows, Perry adds newer satirical commentary — accompanied by just as satirical costumes. Perry also delivers her own songs, usually set to familiar pop tunes a cappella. They're quite funny, and sometimes the audience is invited in — on Friday, the response was enthusiastic.

Friday's performance seemed to take a little time to take off, but that may be because it takes a little bit of time to get used to Perry's very personal approach to humor. Perry is an icon to Vermont's counter-culture... and this show went a long way in showing why.