The Washington Post On Stage

THEATER . DANCE

GNP on the Rise

There has been no dearth of doofuses on the political scene this election year — all fodder for John Simmons and Christine Thompson of Gross National Product. As founder of the comedy troupe, Simmons has been skewering politicos since 1979; Thompson joined in 1991. These days, the troupe has slimmed down to the duo, who are married to each other and to GNP.

Their latest show, "Son of a Bush," is a mix of scripted and improvised scenes, many with audience participation. Recently back from a run in San Diego, it plays on

Saturday nights at Warehouse Theater on Seventh Street NW. Simmons says they've discovered "the audience likes to be a part of the process. We can find out where they're leading before the newspapers can, because they're honest."

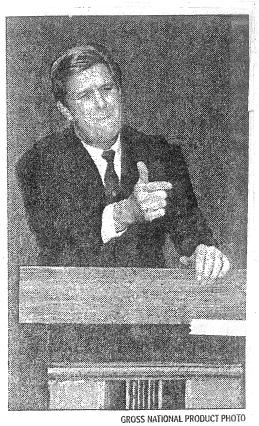
"Son of a Bush" opens with Thompson taking a musical jab at Congress to the tune of "All That Jazz," titled "All That Graft." Simmons does a cranky, fidgety Dubya (on health care, "two words — don't get sick"), sharing the stage with Thompson's bewigged, self-absorbed Hillary Clinton ("I've always been for and against the war").

Thompson says she has "real respect" for the senator: "She love herself and I love her, too. takes a village, or it takes a Village People." But seriously, folks Thompson has been spoofing Clitton for a while. During the 199 presidential campaign, she playe her and Simmons played Repullican nominee Bob Dole. "How do you wake up with smeared Bo Dole makeup and [smeared] Hillary Clinton makeup and thind 'We're good bedfellows'?" she ask dryly.

While Thompson keeps her p litical views more or less to herse in an interview, Simmons makes's bones about his take on the Bus administration: "Katrina put the nail in the coffin as far as I'm cocerned, showing Homeland Security couldn't protect Americans."

Thompson recognizes that the political emergence of Nancy Pelo as House speaker-elect and other female leaders means she has howork cut out for her. Back in 199 she recalls, her roles consisted Rep. Pat Schroeder, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Turwiler and Nancy Reagan. "I never in my wildest dreams, even though I hoped for this, thought they would be so many women" on the political scene.





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The current political climate has been good for "Son of a Bush," with Christing Thompson as Hillary Clinton and John Simmons as the president.