

# REVIEWS IN BRIEF

## *THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS SHOW (abridged)*



**MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY THEATER'S** comedic production runs riot through Dec. 17 at Park Hall in Ben Lomond. The "Holiday Fruitcakes" of MCT push all the seasonal buttons, while sparing neither race, religion, politics nor sexual-orientation in this "Prairie Home Companion"-style entertainment of familiar holiday songs that come with freshly-butchered lyrics. The interactive "Twelve Days of Christmas" is a highlight...or an outrage. Plus no end of shtick in place of the listed Cleveland Castrato Choir, Muslim-American Ramadancers, Cirque du Sleigh and North Piddle & Happy Bottom Panto Players, all staged in the round. The "St Everybody's Non-Denominational Universalist Church" production features 'principals' Karin Babbitt, W Scott Whisler and Jackson Wolfe (pictured) who certainly burn calories in their calisthenic cavitations. A troupe of eight and a band of five add further fuel to the fire. Leave the kids home; come for the laughs. And please accept stage director Kathie Kratochvil's "Happymerrychristmakwanukkahanzukkah to all!" I couldn't have said it better myself. (Actually, I couldn't have said it at all.) *SM*