

Wonderful Joe by Ronnie Burkett  
Excerpts of reviews:

Liz Nicholls, [12thnight.ca](http://12thnight.ca)  
Posted on April 5, 2024

“Burkett and a cast of diminutive cohorts come this time with a real *play*, a funny, thoughtful, and deeply poignant one, that cuts to the heart of a multicultural city like the one we live in. It’s a beauty of a piece, in its generosity of spirit and affection for the urban demimonde, imaginative in conception and creation, and impeccable in design and craftsmanship”

Justin Bell, Edmonton Journal  
Published April 05, 2024

“Ronnie Burkett’s latest work is a beautiful and intensely human show from the master of marionettes. The show is animated by Burkett’s incredible puppetry skills, a one-man show with a hundred different individuals hiding inside. But the most amazing part is the lifelike qualities of the puppets, his ability to move and manipulate them and bring them to life onstage.”

Janine Marley, A View from the Box  
Posted October 10, 2024

“Ronnie Burkett is pulling on our heartstrings, as well as his puppets’ strings, with his latest creation Wonderful Joe. Burkett brings his unique blend of comedy and compassion to this awe-inspiring production, taking us on a journey with Joe Pickle and his colourful cast of neighbours. As side-splitting as it is tear-jerking, Wonderful Joe lives up to its name. “

Deirdre Kelly, Critics at Large  
Sunday, October 13, 2024

“Wonderful Joe is a masterful blend of adult themes and childhood whimsy, a flight of fancy grounded in pressing social issues. It's a celebration of life on society’s margins and a reminder of the magic that can be found in the most unlikely places. Burkett once again proves himself a virtuoso of his craft, creating a theatrical experience that is at once thought-provoking, heartwarming, and utterly unforgettable. “

Ilana Lucas , Globe and Mail  
Published October 10, 2024

“Wonderful Joe is a melancholy work with plenty of dark content – puppets aside, it’s not for kids – but the stars poke through, like the golden filaments of kintsugi that can repair a broken dish or broken heart.“

Glenn Sumi (Toronto Star)  
Published October 10, 2024

“this show, not recommended for audiences under 16, is one of the most mature and moving works of Burkett’s career. At its heart, it’s about community, empathy and imagination. All things that help elevate the lives of average Joes everywhere. “

Ian Jackson (RANGE Magazine)

<https://readrange.com/ronnie-burkett-wonderful-joe-review/>

“From the moment the lights come up, Wonderful Joe ensures an experience that will both captivate and surprise.”—Ian Jackson, RANGE Magazine

“The show resonates with a tender and chaotic energy, instilling that sometimes the most powerful acts of rebellion are the simplest ones: living fully in the moment, no matter the consequences.”—Ian Jackson, RANGE Magazine

Janet Smith (Stir)

<https://www.createastir.ca/articles/wonderful-joe-ronnie-burkett-the-cultch-review>

“gives voice to the marginalized and the misunderstood”—Janet Smith, Stir

“Before you know it—and this is Burkett’s unique gift—you’ve entered an entirely different, surreal plane from where you started.”—Janet Smith, Stir

“One of the singular wonders of watching a Burkett production remains witnessing the artist at work, entering rapid-fire banter with himself and whipping out puppets who sway from rafters around the set—as if waiting for him to breathe offbeat life into them.”—Janet Smith, Stir

Jo Ledingham (On the Scene)

<https://joledingham.ca/wonderful-joe/>

“His unconditional acceptance is palpable. That’s what’s always been going on with Ronnie Burkett but in Wonderful Joe, even more so. And it couldn’t come at a better time.”—Jo Ledingham

“Joe’s compassion for all things deemed ‘broken’, makes him wonderful. Makes Burkett wonderful, too.”—Jo Ledingham

Jay Minter (On the List)

<https://www.jayminter.com/wonderful-wonderful-joe-by-ronnie-burkett-at-the-cultch/>

“The renowned puppeteer takes audiences to another realm fully populated by a colourful community of characters.”—Jay Minter, On the List

“Wonderful Joe a wonderful world that lets your imagination run wild”—Jay Minter, On the List

Colin Thomas

<https://colinthomas.ca/wonderful-joe-is-wonderful/>

“Wonderful Joe is wonderful”—Colin Thomas

“it’s beautiful to look at as it swirls around its themes of loneliness and inclusion, cruelty, resilience — and invention.”—Colin Thomas

“I will tell you that it’s very funny... It’s moving... And it’s ridiculously skilled”—Colin Thomas

“It’s so moving. And it’s the culmination of the reasons that I was standing, applauding, and crying at the end of the show — just like so many others.”—Colin Thomas