PAPERMAG

AUGUST 2005

STAGENOTES

NINTH ANNUAL NEW YORK FRINGE FESTIVAL

MELISSA RAUCH IN
THE MISS EDUCATION OF JENNA BUSH

Manhattan in mid-August is the melting pot for alternative theater, when, for 16 days, the Ninth Annual New York Fringe Festival presents 180 theater companies in 20 downtown venues. With that kind of variety, some fans pick the plays they see by their names alone. Don't forget, *Urinetown* started here. Here are a few titles sure to draw: *Weddings of Mass Destruction*, *Bridezilla Strikes Back!* And *The Monster Under My Bed Drank My Vodka*.

Another anticipated comedy is ***The Miss Education of Jenna Bush***, a one-woman show performed by the popular **Melissa Rauch**, from VH1's *Best Week Ever*. It takes place on the night before the first day of Jenna's gig as a fourth grade teacher at "the Elsie Whitlow Public School" in Washington, D.C. "She's at her Georgetown apartment, that she shares with her sister Barbara, and she's hung-over from a night of partying," says Rauch, setting the scene, "It's 5 p.m., and she's just gotten up, and she realizes she's got a lot to do before her first class."

Rauch, who actually graduated from college last year, says, "It's what every young girl goes through before her first job, highlighted by the additional fact that she's the President's daughter and a great party girl." Being a Bush girl, Rauch notes, "She's privy to some 'inside info', but it's seen through the eyes of a 23-year-old." We learn the inside story on "the tongue incident" (where she stuck out her tongue to the press while riding in a limo with her dad); and, of course, there are the under-age drinking episodes, and the bachelorette party where she did "the butt dance." To many, Jenna Bush is the first family's favorite member, and Rauch promises," there's more than meets the eye there."

Aug. 12-28, call (212) 279-4488 or visit www.fringenyc.org for showtimes and venues. All shows are $15.