

# Last Gig of Lenny Breau

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Februray 5, 2012



*Reviewed by Kim Bosch*

*60min | A Beatnik Musical, One Man Show | PG*

Canadian guitar legend Lenny Breau is without a doubt an intriguing subject for a musical. However, if you've never heard of Breau before, don't come looking for biography; this a musical roundabout, one that leaves questions dangling but ears satisfied.

With just his guitar and a bell vest (yes, a vest with bells on it), Godbout plays eighteen fantastic tunes, pieces that almost simultaneously evoke jazz traditions and subvert the genre entirely. His technique is fascinating, and whether he's slapping his open palm over the sound hole or plucking gently on each individual string, his performance becomes much more than guitar: it is bongo drum, sitar, flute, bass, etc. etc.

What's problematic isn't Godbout's musical performance, but his on-again-off-again acting. He switches between being Breau (acting) and speaking about Breau (not acting) throughout the 60 minutes: it's a rocky transition that leaves the audience confused. As a result, the performance fails to follow a clear narrative, the kind that would reveals the juicy biographical tidbits of such an fascinating and legendary figure.

In short, *The Last Gig of Lenny Breau* is must for lovers of jazz guitar, especially those looking for a venue that matches matches that jazz club atmosphere with creaking footsteps overhead and a pint to sip on while you watch, but don't expect to find out more about Breau than you already do. You won't.

*The Last Gig of Lenny Breau by Colin Godbout is playing at The Royal Oak (161 Laurier Ave East) on Friday June 17 at 8pm, Saturday June 18 at 8pm, Sunday June 19 at 8pm, Thursday June 23 at 8pm, Friday June 24 at 8pm, Saturday June 25 at 8pm, Sunday June 26 at 8pm. Tickets are \$10 each.*