

## The Arts

### FRINGE FESTIVAL

BY KATE TAYLOR  
Theatre Critic

If Toronto knows the name Conor McPherson, it is as the author of *The Weir*, that Irish play set in a bar that was a hit at the recent World Stage festival. *Rum and Vodka* is an earlier piece from this gifted playwright, a monologue from a 24-year-old character with a wife, two young daughters, a suburban house, a mortgage, a job as a government clerk, and a capacity for alcohol that appears superhuman. Off he goes on a three-day bender, heaving his computer out the office window and picking up a stray woman in a bar. It's a bleak but very funny examination of a young life prematurely settled only to become disastrously unsettled. The show features a fine performance from John O'Callaghan (whose Irish accent is legit) and is smoothly directed by Ed Sahely.