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SKETCHFEST SAN FRANCISCO 2012 REVIEW: Killing My Lobster and Thunderstood

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Written by Julie Lawless



Killing My Lobster is touted as San Francisco's version of *Saturday Night Live* founders *Second City*. With a live band and multi-media show I figured this would be the perfect show to slap me into reality straight off the back of 27 hours of travelling.

Jill Bourque was a great choice of host for an off-beat sketch comedy night, her funny, relatable stories and characterizations getting the room toasty and warm for the opening act, **Thunderstood**. Otherwise known as, "25 minutes of uncomfortable unchoreographed dancing, jokes and disturbing moments with **A.J Schraeder**". The *Being John Malkovich*-esque journey into Schraeder's mind (puppets live in there) was ridiculously hilarious and without giving too much of his show away, involved robot costumes, existential traffic signals and yes, some unchoreographed dancing. If you get a chance, go see this guy.

It became pretty obvious throughout **Killing My Lobster's** set that they enjoy cult-like status in these parts, with whispers of, "Oooh I love this one" preceding many of their sketches, which included the most bang-on *Seinfeld* impression I've ever seen.

They're an incredibly tight act, with a razor-sharp and perfectly timed show featuring a terrific live band. The musical accompaniment during and between sketches added a spritz of refreshing flavour and I'd go see them in their own right. *Killing My Lobster* are what **Saturday Night Live** wishes it still was - genuinely clever, tight, fast-paced and fun, and their closing number - a gospel tribute to tacquerias - summed up my feelings towards those establishments perfectly. There are definitely at least two future SNL cast members hanging out in this troupe.

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