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ENTAINMENT

## Jacob Siskind

# The Times Square Two Open At The New Penelope

The New Penelope has attracted a different kind of talent this week. Heading the bill is a pair of dauntless young comics whose talents enable them to perform with equal dexterity and aplomb on guitar or guitars, traumablatt or with a brace of small oranges.

Mycroft Partner and Andrew i, The Times Square Two, are the last remaining links with a dying art — vaudeville, holdovers from an era long dead that bear considerable resemblance to other such vestiges. Take the appendix as an example. It can lie there in the pit of your abdominal cavity for years without bothering you at all. But if it becomes inflamed or irritated, you know about it.

My and i are just like that. You can sit through their show and chuckle quietly to yourself as they go through their routines, or you can shrug your shoulders in despair, or you can just let it all flood past you. But every once in a while they come up with a line, or a routine that rubs your funny bone like a rasp. And you have to respond. In self-defence.

Last night, in their opening set, there were about a half dozen short items and one longer one. The brief hit-and-runners were far more successful than the others in breaking up the admittedly cold audience. I've Got A Feeling For Ophelia is one of those little cuties that sets the tone of

the evening. You know right then and there just how much you will enjoy the rest of the performance.

The two items that shook me were the incredibly acute timing with which an illusion was shattered, and the performance by i on the traumablatt. Traumablattists are indeed a rare breed these days, and there can be no question that i is the most proficient performer on that esoteric instrument I have ever heard. It seems to me that that indefatigable baroque master P.D.Q. Bach has written at least one concerto for the instrument, and i would do well to seek it out.

Actually, both My and i are two of the most accomplished, most technically

polished performers on the vaudeville, or is it coffee-house, circuit today. Personally, I found i the more appealing of the Two, and wished that i had had more to do. i's juggling has to be seen to be believed and the ease with which i slides up and down a microphone stand bespeaks his vast experience.

The show at the New Penelope also features a very intense, gifted, and musically adept young man called Jesse Winchester who takes his music very seriously. When he has had enough experience in public to be able to perform without such total involvement he will become a valuable asset to the musical community.

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