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Regional Reviews: Philadelphia

And Tell Sad Stories of the Death of Queens

EgoPo Classic Theater / 2019 Philadelphia Fringe Festival

Review by [Rebecca Rendell](#) | [Season Schedule](#)

EgoPo Classic Theater's Fringe Festival production of *And Tell Sad Stories of the Death of Queens* is brutal. Tennessee Williams' lesser known one-act is unflinching in its depiction of the toxic relationship between queer interior decorator Candy and hard drinking sailor Karl. Lane Savadove creates an experience so earnest and intimate that watching the characters feels like a voyeuristic violation of trust. And Rob Tucker infuses soon to be middle-aged Candy with a vulnerability and desperation so raw it stings.



Rob Tucker and Nick Ware

Photo courtesy of Philadelphia Fringe Festival

Tennessee Williams wrote *And Tell Sad Stories of the Death of Queens* in 1957, but it was not produced until 2004, more than 20 years after his death. Even by today's standards the story of these New Orleans queens feels uncommonly authentic and more than a bit shocking. Seeing this production makes me wish it were staged more frequently.

The text is not the only extraordinary thing happening here. Tucker is mesmerizing, taking the audience along on a journey from deepest hope to abject self loathing. Nick Ware nails the role of Karl, impossibly cruel and yet clearly suffering through his own pain. The space is masterfully

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