

Play

Hilton

BOOK NOW >

Select location

Search



Sign In | Register

EDGE MEDIANETWORK

News A&E Biz Tech Money Cars Style Health Travel Nightlife Pride

Please note: You are viewing an unpublished preview of this article that is not cleared for public consumption. Do not share or post the URL of this page to any third party.

Would You Still Love Me If....

by Winnie McCroy
EDGE Editor
Sunday Oct 11, 2015



Sofia Jean Gomez & Rebecca Brooksher

They called it a 'casting coup' when little-known playwright John S. Anastasi from Altoona, PA, landed actors Kathleen Turner and Deborah Cox to star in a play about gender dysphoria. Cox departed, and when director Nona Gerard stepped out, Turner stepped up for double duty as director and star in the new play "Would You Still Love Me If..." at the New World Stages.

Audience members will quickly see why talent rushed off quicker than rats from a sinking ship. The play, which deals with some seriously heavy topics, needs a lot more work before it is ready for public consumption.

Throughout the course of this 90-minute drama, we learn that Danya has wished to be a boy since she was five years old. Her

gender dysphoria leads her to the top-notch gender reassignment surgeon, Dr. Gerard, played by Roy Shanks (with a bit too much dramatic license taken).

Turner plays Danya's mother Victoria Pruitt, who is as supportive as she can be -- that is, after blaming her daughter's gender dysphoria on the pesticides sprayed in the '70s, and the steroids she took while pregnant. At the least, she gives Danya the \$2,500 needed for what insurance won't cover.

"I almost lost you once; I won't lose you again," says Victoria Pruitt, recalling her daughter's teenage suicide attempt. But she also warns her impossibly naïve child that "you are not going to be you anymore."



The two come to odds when she insists Danya tell Addison that she is planning on having a sex change. Victoria urges her daughter to come clean, realizing that as a lesbian, Addison may not want to be with a man. When Danya drags her feet, Victoria spills the news, causing Addison to freak out. And that's the non-convoluted part of the narrative.

Gender transition is serious subject matter, and deserves a softer touch. Across the board, the acting was ham-handed. If a real doctor were as unprofessional, she'd be reported to the AMA. The two leads were flustered and unconvincing, and their stage work needed help.

Rebecca Brooksher is passable as Addison, a blonde, thirty-something lesbian writer who is ready to start their family via adoption. Sofia Jean Gomez is a bit shakier as her lesbian partner Danya, a young lawyer who is madly in love with her partner, but who desperately hates her own body. Her affected stutter when dealing with issues of her gender identity is so heavy-handed, it is cringe-worthy. It would be better to remove the affect entirely.

Turner is a bit worse for wear, thanks to the ravaging effects of the drugs she took to battle rheumatoid arthritis. But hers were among the best lines in the show.

It's inexplicable to this reviewer why she ever signed on to this production. If it's for love of the LGBT community and our struggles, then God bless her. But if she loves her career in the theater, she'll steer clear of the work of little-known playwrights, at least for a while.

"Would You Still Love Me If..." runs through Oct. 26 at New World Stages, 340 W. 50th Street in New York. For information or tickets, call 212-239-6200 or visit <http://wouldyoustilllovemeiftheplay.com>

Winnie McCroy is the Women on the EDGE Editor, HIV/Health Editor, and Assistant Entertainment Editor for EDGE Media Network, handling all women's news, HIV health stories and theater reviews throughout the U.S. She has contributed to other publications, including The Village Voice, Gay City News, Chelsea Now and The Advocate, and lives in Brooklyn, New York.



*Came out
and* **Play**

Hilton **BOOK NOW >**

LGBT CRUISES & TOUR EVENTS
aquafest

Private Group Event
from \$599 **15th ANNUAL**
7 Nights HALLOWEEN CRUISE
Norwegian Cruise Line - Norwegian - Gem
Oct 30 - Nov 6, 2016

*Departs from San Juan, Puerto Rico, sails to Grenada,
St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Tortola, & Back to San Juan*

Private Group Event Includes:
- \$1,000 in Costume Prizes
- Top GLBT Entertainment
- Private Gay Disco with
DJ Michael Kessler
- Group Dining
- Optional Beach Parties
- Nightly Shows & Gatherings
& much, much more...



2016: Alaska, Caribbean, Cuba, France, India, Mediterranean

www.AquafestCruises.com

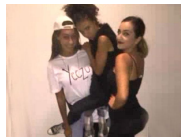
Call Today: (800) 592-9058



INSIDE EDGE



Watch: 'Let's Finish What We Started,' Says GLAAD and Liz Taylor AIDS PSA



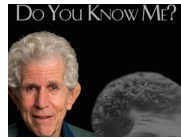
Bristol Palin Defends Alleged UCLA Black Face Party as 'Free Speech'



On the Tab :: Oct. 8 - 15



Texas Rep Offers Twisted Analogy in Opposing LGBT Marriage



Do You Know Me?



Marine in 2012 Viral Kiss Photo Ties the Knot

LGBT CRUISES & TOUR EVENTS

aquafest  **15th Annual - 7 Nights Halloween Cruise**
 Oct 30 - Nov 6, 2016
 Departs from San Juan, Puerto Rico to Grenada, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Tortola, & Back to San Juan
 Alaska, Caribbean, Cuba, France, India, Mediterranean
www.AquafestCruises.com - (800) 592-9058

Network Partners

- Atlanta, GA
- Atlantic City, NJ
- Austin, TX
- Baltimore, MD
- Boston, MA
- Buffalo, NY
- Charlotte, NC
- Chicago, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Columbus, OH
- Dallas, TX
- Denver, CO
- Detroit, MI
- Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Fire Island, NY
- Indianapolis, IN
- Key West, FL
- Las Vegas, NV
- Los Angeles, CA
- Miami, FL
- Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
- Nashville, TN
- New Orleans, LA
- New York, NY
- Orlando, FL
- Palm Springs, CA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Phoenix, AZ
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Portland, OR
- Providence, RI
- Provincetown, MA
- San Diego, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- Seattle, WA
- Washington, DC

- BARTab
- Bay Area Reporter
- Bay Windows
- Damron LGBT Travel
- HotSpots! Magazine
- Metro Weekly
- QNotes
- Rage Monthly
- South Florida Gay News
- Uomo Moderno

Things to do

- Get Newsletters
- Learn about EDGE
- Work here
- Visit our Press Room
- Advertise
- Write Feedback
- Read Privacy Statement
- Read Terms of Use
- Contact Us

Copyright © 2003-2015

EDGE Publications, Inc. / All Rights Reserved

Homotech, YouShoot, EDGE Media Network, Pride Labs and QueeryMe are registered trademarks of EDGE Publications Inc.

98.14.250.18