



Media Reviews: *Queen Lear is Dead*

The branching narrative The Fox Den Collective has designed for *Queen Lear is Dead* works masterfully. [The characters] come together and then move apart, making the entire Strathcona Baptist Church their stage. I followed Regan outside for a cigarette at one juncture, our group given special insight into her relationships with her parents and her siblings. It's impossible to say what's happening with the other sisters, but that's what makes this show so special. It's uniquely your own when you leave, a show you got to mix together based on what you found more interesting or intriguing.

There's only one word I can use to describe the mixture of form and performance — magical. It's a wondrous thing this group has done with *Queen Lear is Dead*, infusing so much emotion into such a novel and interesting form. Definitely a must-see at this year's fringe.

- *Justin Bell, Edmonton Journal*

Mothers in Shakespeare are rarely mentioned and almost never seen, but *Queen Lear is Dead* is a brilliant reclamation of one such mother's legacy of love... Jessie Arden's exquisitely insightful script sets Shakespeare's sisters before us in flesh and blood, each of them complex, contemporary, and utterly real. The conspicuous absence of their father and the lingering presence of their mother is heart rending... Raw and intimate performances guided by Valerie Planche's graceful direction make this prequel experience too beautiful for words, and is this reviewer's Pick of the Fringe.

- *Danielle LaRose, Alberta Theatre Guide*

Audience Reviews

"I was thrilled to follow along with the story, creating my own ideas about who the prime suspect was based on all the clues given. The acting was high quality which made me more invested in the story. Being able to choose at the end, among strangers and friends, allowed me to feel connected to my community in a very unique way!... Its site specific nature and audience immersion create an exciting and collaborative experience for audience members!"

- Erin Pettifor (*Off'd on Whyte*)

"[I]t was the most original theater ever."

- Shelah Kent (*Off'd on Whyte*)

"It was clever because it called for audience participation in a totally non-threatening way."

- Joscelyn Proby (*Off'd On Whyte*)

Queen Lear is Dead is an exceptional piece of theatre. They took throw-away characters from classic literature and turned them into people. They fed me cupcakes and they made me weep. It is the rare kind of play that makes me want to see it again and again. The script is brilliant and the performances are gut-wrenching. Do yourself a favour and catch this play while you can.

- Jaime Reese (*Queen Lear is Dead*)

They fed you CUPCAKES??? Ooh girl we took different tracks.

- Erin Valentine (*Queen Lear is Dead*)

Easily the best fringe play I've ever seen. The venue? Perfect. Choose your own adventure theatre? Weird flex, but ok. Taking the Lear sisters into a modern context in a way that actually works? Y'all 'got' me. They connected me with the stupid, yet highly relateable sibling humour, then got my blood boiling with the fighting, and finally told their heartbreaking truths, shared their beautiful gifts and made me weep. 5 stars. For the first time in a long time I gave a standing ovation that I really meant.

- Kent William (*Queen Lear is Dead*)