

Jeremy Johnson

Reflection on *Once In A Lifetime*

After I read what this play is about and the reviews for it, I honestly thought it could be very good, or mediocre. But, then again this is London. I am sure there is mediocre theatre somewhere in this city, however this show well surpassed my expectations for it. I knew very little about it, but it proved to be incredibly funny! By the end of the show I felt: joyful, aww-inspired, and empathetic. One of the first moments, besides the comedy that completely amazed me was, yes again, the design of this show and the use of a huge periaktoid, or a large rotating three sided machine in which the different sets for the scenes were placed. I was completely surprised when at the first scene change when it turned through all of its sides.

Aside from the stage effects, I was really impressed with the story and how this play examined different stereotypes and conditions people have and live with. Particularly, I felt empathetic towards the main character. He always wanted to help, but didn't always have the best ideas. Of course this is what drives the play and a lot of the humor. It's the idea to always want to help and participate, even if others don't see the situation the same-is what I connected to. And secondly, it teaches an important lesson of always giving someone a chance, even if you do not know how the situation will end up. Sometimes, just letting someone be apart of something can make all the difference for them.