

KEEP 'EM COMING

SENSATIONAL SEX TIPS HIT THE SMALL STAGE.



WHEN IT COMES to sex, gay men know everything, right? True or not, in 1997 a couple of “sexperts” had the nous to cash in on this assumption by writing the book *Sex Tips For Straight Women From A Gay Man*. It sold over 250,000 copies. You may even have seen Meryl Streep reading it in the movie *Hope Springs*.

The switched-on authors were Dan Anderson and Maggie Berman. They conducted extensive research into the male psyche and, through the book, delivered the secret pleasures of the Up Twist Over And Down stroke, and the Princeton Belly Rub to the heterosexual world. While this could easily have become part of a *Seinfeld* episode on sexual anxieties, *Sex Tips...* actually became the basis of a 2014 Off-Broadway play. I was a hit and is, in fact, still playing.

Set in a university, the play has an intertextual conceit in which the book’s co-author Dan Anderson appears at the English Department’s monthly Meet The Author event. He’s joined on stage by a rather introverted female host named Robyn and, to deliciously complicate matters, a buff stagehand named Stefan.

Along with the witty dialogue, comedy improv and outright fun (beware, there is audience interaction), the cast is talented and very easy-on-the-eye. Playing Dan Anderson is Grant MacDermott, who’s previous credits span *RENT* to *MacBeth*. Making her Off-Broadway debut as Robyn is Arielle Siegel, already well known for her voice-over work. Rounding out the cast as the hunky Stefan, is Dan Gonon, whose credits include *Speed-The-Plow* and the one-man show *Tramp(ed)*, in which he played Charlie Chaplin.

Matt Murphy and Shawn Nightingale are the producers, with Murphy earning acclaim for his cyber-bullying production *Virtually Me!* and Nightingale having worked with the likes of Whoopi Goldberg, Joan Rivers and John Waters. While Tim Drucker (*Spidermusical*) provides direction, there’s some creative choreography from Nancy Renee Braun who was behind the YouTube sensation *Godspell’s Broadway Flash Mob*.

There’s definitely momentum behind this production, with the critics all tending to agree, the *New York Times* calling the show, “a polished production with an endearing and talented cast”, while Out.com gave it “two wet thumbs up!” A *Broadway World* review said, “*Sex Tips For Straight Women From A Gay Man* is a night of laughter that makes you feel good in all the wrong places.”

Surely the authors would argue that should be in all the right places.

When it comes to sticky topics like sex, parody and laughs are usually the best course of action in the theatre. *50 Shades! The Musical Parody* is currently playing Vegas, while Australia’s own *Puppetry Of The Penis* has been touring on and off for nearly twenty years.

Incidentally, Dan Anderson has written a follow up book entitled *Sex Tips For Gay Guys*. Broadway had better brace itself.

For the record, the DNA team had to Google both Up Twist Over And Down and Princeton Belly Rub.

MORE: *Sex Tips For Straight Women From A Gay Man* plays at 777 Theatre, Eighth Avenue, New York, NY.

VISIT: sextipsplay.com