
The Wall of Water

Reviewed by Jeanette Toomer

*Presented by Six Figures Theatre
Company at The West End Theatre,
263 W. 86th St., NYC, Oct. 26-Nov. 18.*

“**T**he Wall of Water,” written by **Sherry Kramer**, pokes fun at the lives of mismatched roommates sharing a New York City apartment. In the first act, it shines with the intelligent, wry humor of its forerunner, “The Odd Couple.” There are outrageous moments of physical comedy that are expertly delivered, but the shenanigans multiply and roll out of control and beyond comprehension in the second half.

The best device of this play,

directed by **Scott Robinson**, is an invisible fourth wall in the bathroom through which the characters directly address the audience and reveal their real motivations and desires. This truth portal provides some of the funniest lines of the evening. Unfortunately, **Kramer** fails to tighten a plot involving not only four roommates, but also their boyfriends and an overeager nurse.

The actors, however, give it their best. **Gay Isaacs**, as the “crazy” roommate, displays excellent comic timing, even in her most outlandish antics. **Dawn Fuller** as **Meg** is justifiably frantic at the “I can’t take it anymore” stress level.

Kate O’Connell plays it straight in an understated portrayal of the reasonable roommate—a doctor by profession. In contrast, **Sharon Edrei** goes over-the-top in her terribly

affected presentation of a self-indulgent party girl and social climber.

Nick Dantos is **Jack**, **Meg**’s boyfriend, who convincingly breaks into a cry whenever he recalls his recently deceased mother. **Steven Petrillo** is very funny as the doctor’s intended, and **Troy Metcalf** takes the comedy cake as the novice nurse, eager to please, who is confounded by his patient’s unwillingness to cooperate. **Ashley Howard Wilkinson**, in a brief and confusing performance as **Gig** (later transformed into a god!), completes the cast.

Set design consultant **George Xenos** successfully created a small, crowded apartment complete with bathroom and kitchen, with cutaway walls between rooms. Director **Scott Robinson** kept the action moving in and out of those rooms as the comedy reached a farcical pace near the end.