

...Where You Eat

a new play by Dennis Bush

2018 Fresh Fruit Festival Awards of Distinction:

Audience Favorite Award
Outstanding Ensemble Award

Press synopsis

It's not what I was expecting," Rusty says, as he takes an up-close look at a Meredith's vagina, a few minutes after meeting her. As a gay man in his early 20's, Rusty hasn't led a sheltered life, by any means, but his experience with women's private parts has been non-existent. Meredith is happy to let Rusty have a look, but she'd be happier if she could get her toilet to stop moaning so mournfully, when she flushes.

Rusty's sister Lisa's boyfriend is paralyzed from the waist down. And she's just had sex with Steve, who's in a relationship with Kelly, Meredith's best friend. Kelly's co-worker Carole's much-younger boyfriend Don has a history with both Rusty and Lisa. And, then, there's Dalton, who's more comfortable being naked than having a conversation – or being honest with himself or anyone else.

Rusty's search for meaning and, maybe, love takes him and Dalton, Meredith, Don, Carole, Steve, Lisa and Kelly on a pants-dropping, bed-hopping adventure through a world of dildos, deodorant, hummus, Whole Foods, trimmed armpits and cupped balls.

So, wash your hands and hold on tight. In this edgy, adult comedy, filled with witty, memorable dialogue, everything is up for grabs. In the midst of cynicism and sex, there's still room for sweetness and romance...*Where You Eat*.

Tag lines/teasers

A pants-dropping, bed-hopping adventure through a world of dildos, deodorant, hook-ups, heartbreak, trimmed armpits, cupped balls and circle jerks gone awry.

Wash your hands and hold on tight. In this edgy, adult comedy, filled with witty, memorable dialogue, everything is up for grabs. In the midst of cynicism and sex, there's still room for sweetness and romance...*Where You Eat*.

...Where You Eat by Dennis Bush

Fresh Fruit Festival at The Wild Project, 195 East 3rd Street, NYC

Review by Nusrat Hossain

Titles are everywhere and can say a lot about, a person, place or thing. A play's title can also say a lot about what it may be about. However, this is not always the case. *...Where You Eat*, written by Dennis Bush is not about food but instead it is rather a very funny piece on how small the world really is. It is about sex, hook-up culture, affairs, love and so much more. This witty plot is surrounded by the lives of 8 characters, whose lives are interconnected in ways they can't even imagine.

The play begins with Rusty, a "highly specialized" PR person in his early 20's. Rusty is friends with Meredith, whom he met on an online site because of a strange request to see her vagina. Rusty is gay and has a sister named Lisa, in a relationship with a boyfriend whose paralyzed, but the relationship is open so she is free to "hook up" with anyone she chooses, and she chooses a someone named Steve. Steve is in a relationship with Kelly while having an affair with Lisa. Steve works with a guy named Dalton, who also happens to be gay, and involved with Rusty through a hookup app. Dalton is also friends with Kelly whose friends with Carole, who's dating Don, who is childhood "play" buddies with Rusty and has also hooked up with his sister, Lisa.

Thank you, Arthur Schnitzler, for paving the way in 1897.

The play begins with Rusty looking at Meredith's vagina since he has never seen one before. Actors Scot Taylor and Kelsey Torstveit do an incredible job at entertaining the audience. Rusty and Meredith go on to become great friends after the grand showing of her vagina. Their relationship truly goes to show the weird ways we make friends and new connections. A part that stood out the most was the ongoing tension between Dalton and Rusty. Dalton and Rusty met on a hook up app and are not in a serious relationship. However, Rusty comes upon a desire to be in a relationship with Dalton. However, Dalton does not want a relationship. Like most characters in the play, he is very used to his routine and appears to be afraid of commitment. This goes on to show this new epidemic of "hook up culture" and looking for a temporary burst of pleasure rather than a long-term path of happiness and struggle. However, the different dynamics in each relationship in the play also teaches one to be open with him/her self sexually and or emotionally. As humans it is very important to accept ourselves as who we truly are despite our flaws. Everyone has different expectations of life and we cannot always look to what others do, say or feel.

...Where You Eat, is well directed by Meggy Lykins. The top-notch ensemble of Scot Taylor as Rusty, Kelsey Torstveit as Meredith, Veronica Thompson as Lisa, John DiMino as Steve, Melissa Teitel as Carole, Chapman Hyatt as Dalton, Chrizney Roth as Kelly and Dan Foster as Don were not only very funny but kept the audience engaged and enthralled. I thought that this piece was funny, informative and very interesting. I would recommend it highly.

...Where You Eat

by Dennis Bush

The Wild Project, 195 East 3rd Street

Reviewed by Robert Viagas

Dennis Bush's smart, episodic comedy, ...*Where You Eat*, dishes up a *La Ronde* for the 21st century: a series of interlocked PG-13-rated dispatches from today's sexual battlefields.

If the capable eight-member ensemble of boasts a star, it's Kelsey Torstveit, playing an exuberant free spirit named Meredith. She answers an online ad from a young gay man (Scot Taylor) who is curious to observe female genitalia up close, to find out what all the fuss is about. Their witty and unexpectedly sweet meeting launches the merry-go-round of encounters among a group of Manhattan singles and semi-singles who are connected through a tangled org-chart of friendships, jobs, internet dates, and shared gym memberships.

The playlets include a gay couple trying to turn a one-night stand into a relationship, a straight man who refuses to wear women's deodorant, another straight man who works in a gay bar, and a woman who names her dildoes, plus many more. They utter memorable quotes about "fetishes versus fetishes that require dry-cleaning," the ineffable sadness of "toilet sounds," and the proven unreliability of "promises made in the afterglow."

Director Meggy Lykins keeps the staccato pacing moving, and highlights the talented cast that also includes Veronica Thompson, John DiMino, Melissa Teitel, Chapman Hyatt, Chrizney Roth and Dan Foster.

Author Bush is known as author of *Mouthy Bitch*, and the solo-actor play *(Mary)Todd*.

...*Where You Eat*, which includes a brief glimpse of bare male buttocks, is being presented as part of the Fresh Fruit Festival at The Wild Project in New York City.

<https://reviewfix.com/2018/07/review-fix-fresh-fruit-festival-coverage-dennis-bush-talks-where-you-eat/>

Review Fix Fresh Fruit Festival Coverage: Dennis Bush Talks ‘...Where You Eat’

[July 18, 2018](#) [Patrick Hickey Jr.](#) [Theatre 0](#)



Review Fix chats with Dennis Bush, who discusses his production at this year’s Fresh Fruit Festival in New York City, detailing the creative process and letting us know what to expect.

About ...Where You Eat:

Thursday 7/19 8:30 pm, Friday 7/20 7:30 pm, Saturday 7/21 4 pm (118') World Premiere

Does our sexuality define us? Does it enhance us? Is our sexual expression limited by society, the people in our lives, or by us? Eight men and women (straight, gay, and up for anything) combine

*and uncouple in this edgy comedy about sex, love, and identity. By the writer of the audience-acclaimed, multiple Frutie Award-winning play (MARY)TODD. *note: nudity, adult situations**

Review Fix: What was the inspiration for this project?

Bush: A conversation with a friend about his emotional disconnect, especially during sexual interactions. It began with some specific actors in mind. My favorite way to write is to create pieces on specific actors or ensembles of actors. In my career, I've had the great good fortune to work with some extraordinary actors who inspire me. I also have a wonderful group of people who are my work-in-progress readers. Their responses to my work, as its being created, makes the process more productive and rich.

Review Fix: What's your creative process like?

Bush: Most often, in the beginning, I hear dialogue in my head. It could be a single line, a few lines or an extended conversation – sometimes with multiple characters “talking in my head.” I write in two primary forms. ...Where You Eat is mixture of traditionally-structured scenes and monologues that shifts from location to location and character to character in ways that have a cinematic fluidity. My award-winning play (Mary)Todd is a solo-actor play, as is my play Mouthy Bitch.

I also write in the ensemble-style mode most notably mastered in the early work of A.R. Gurney, Jean-Claude van Itallie and Lanford Wilson at Cafe Cino in the 1960s. Those works form a kind of tapestry or puzzle that gradually comes together as a complete picture. In those plays, the narrative is often non-linear. Examples of my plays in that mode are Asylum (with more than 500 productions in the United States and around the world), ...and others, Below the Belt and Drift (all of which have had hundreds of productions in the US, Canada, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and elsewhere).

Review Fix: What makes this different or special?

Bush: ...Where You Eat is an eight-character (4f/4m) play that takes audiences on a pants-dropping, bed-hopping adventure through a world of dildos, deodorant, hummus, Whole Foods, trimmed armpits and cupped balls (as our synopsis describes). It begins as Rusty, a gay man in his early 20's gets an up-close look at Meredith's vagina and declares, “It's not what I was expecting.”

A reviewer once said that my work, “lives at the intersection of hilariously funny and heartbreakingly tragic.” ...Where You Eat is definitely an example of that.

Review Fix: What did you learn about yourself through this process?

Bush: I saw parts of myself in characters where I wasn't expecting it. I discovered things about my work-in-progress readers, as they resonated with characters that others found to be heartless or sexually opportunistic. That, in turn, made me examine where I drew ethical and moral lines.

Review Fix: What are your ultimate goals for this production and for the future?

Bush: I want audiences to be open to take this journey with the characters, to be open to see themselves where they may not expect to or want to, to be open to reflect on how they define themselves sexually and emotionally.

I always try to stay in the moment about productions, rather than to project it into some kind of idealized experience in the future. I've had very good luck with having my work produced and published, so the likelihood of life beyond Fresh Fruit Festival definitely exists. In the meantime, I am absolutely thrilled with the cast of ...Where You Eat that Fresh Fruit Festival audiences will get to experience, and the director (Meggy Lykins) is wonderful. Having Rebecca Lampiasi and Golden Nugget Theatrical on board as producer has been a pleasure.

Review Fix: What's next?

Bush: Aside from ...Where You Eat, I'm currently working on two new plays and two screenplays, along with my work as a script/dialogue consultant. Later this summer, I have a new play and a new monologue collection being published and available for performance licensing. This pair of releases mark my 39th and 40th published theatrical texts, which I'm very excited about, proud of, and grateful for the support of my publishers and other reps.

<https://outerstage.wordpress.com/2018/06/27/fresh-fruit-is-where-you-eat/>

Posted on [27 Jun 2018](#) by [Natasha Dawsen, Editor](#)

The 16th Season of the Fresh Fruit Festival promises to be a great one and already began at the top of the year! Powerful nights of staged readings, discussions, and poetry events have been added to All-Out Arts' Festival of works celebrating the diversity of the LGBTQ Community through live performance. All tickets \$18 unless otherwise stated and available at OvationTix <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/cal/527>

The 2018 Fresh Fruit Festival MainStage, its 16th Season at The Wild Project, 195 East 3rd Street presents the world premiere of . . . **Where You Eat** by Dennis Bush
Thursday 7/19 8:30 pm, Friday 7/20 7:30 pm, Saturday 7/21 4 pm.

Does our sexuality define us?

Does it enhance us?

Is our sexual expression limited by society, the people in our lives, or by us?

Dennis Bush gives us eight men and women (straight, gay, and up-for-anything) combine and uncouple in this edgy comedy about sex, love, and identity. Bush is the profestic and prolific writer behind the acclaimed, Fresh Fruit Award-winning play (MARY)TODD.

Tell us about yourself as an artist, Dennis?

A reviewer once said that my work, "lives at the intersection of hilariously funny and heartbreakingly tragic." My plays are provocative, edgy and compelling. My characters are real, flawed, and experiencing life moments that have consequences – whether the characters realize those consequences or not. And, even in the darkest moments, laughter is not far away.

Very nice! OK so we got Nudity; so we got Adult Situations. Let's really press-on ... share with us a little something about your play that we WON'T see in the press release.

The various degrees of nudity exhibited by our incredibly talented actors will pale in comparison to the characters' naked emotion and candid intimacy.

Did you write that? It sound like something out of Jay Michaels' mouth.

Nope, it's mine.

How does your play resonate today? Feel free to be blunt. Y'know, give us an Adult Situation.

It explores the concept of, "say whatever you have to say to feel however you need feel." Does a hookup app profile define us for other people or does it validate an image we want to believe is true? How can we find meaning in our interactions with other people, if we're only interacting with veritable avatars that don't truly represent us? Does compartmentalizing sexual encounters

leave us unable to be whole, even with ourselves? Are our greatest truths revealed in our mundane experiences?

And ...Where You Eat explores all those things in the framework of a comedy with dialogue that is frankly funny and almost absurdly candid.

Why did you choose Fresh Fruit Festival for your work?

My first experience with Fresh Fruit Festival was with my play (Mary)Todd in 2014. The audiences were energized, engaged and enthusiastic. Winning festival awards for Outstanding Playwriting, Outstanding Direction (Lester Thomas Shane) and Outstanding Actor (Xavier Reminick) was the icing on an already marvelous cake. We were thrilled to be invited back in 2015 for the festival's first-ever encore run. And, just like with the original production, the audiences for the encore run were amazing. The All Out Arts organization and the team that produces the Fresh Fruit Festival create a wonderful environment for performers and audiences. The support they provide for participants is unparalleled.

Golden Nugget Theatrical and director Meggy Lykins, along with an obscenely talented cast, are going to take audiences on a funny, edgy, sweet, sexy, adult comedy adventure!

Where do you see it going in the future? What's the next step?

We did a well-received reading in early May that was the first step of this process. We're looking forward to sharing the play with the Fresh Fruit Festival audiences, including some wonderful industry colleagues and connections.

Aside from ...Where You Eat, I'm currently working on two new plays and two screenplays, along with my work as a script/dialogue consultant. Later this summer, I have a new play and a new monologue collection being published and available for performance licensing. This pair of releases mark my 39th and 40th published theatrical texts, which I'm very excited about, proud of, and grateful for the support of my publishers and other reps.

Final thoughts?

Thank you for your support and for advocating for the arts. Don't hesitate to be in touch with Jay or me, if you have follow up questions or need additional information.

Gladly!