



Naked in a Fishbowl

by Tom Penketh

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Actor Lynne Rosenberg draws blood early. En route to see her friend's experimental performance art piece, she quips, "Anything downtown these days that involves movement work is going to be a disaster," then strikes a mock Martha Graham pose. Buoyed by Rosenberg's laser wit, *Naked in a Fishbowl* is a delight.

The four actors -- Katharine Heller, Brenna Palughi, Lauren Seikaly, and Rosenberg -- play archetypal urban women in the *Sex and the City* mold, supporting each other through the thickets of love, sex, careers, and friendship.

Directed by Hugh Sinclair (*What Women Talk About*), this long-form improv piece uses a play's tight scene structure, with each actor basing dialogue on her characters. The quartet makes a very believable group of friends, with differences that nicely complement each other. *Naked* shines best when the women take specific aim at each other's weaknesses -- like Rosenberg's digs on Seikaly's thinness and Palughi's commitment phobia -- because it's done with affection. Beneath the comedy is a warmth that translates instantly.

Presented by Dragonchase Productions as part of the New York International Fringe Festival

at the SoHo Playhouse, 15 Vandam St., NYC.

Aug. 10–26. Remaining performances: Fri., Aug. 24, 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 26, 2:15 p.m.

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