

Audience Responses to *a bunch of different ways i'd like to die*

In the 2018 Essential Theatre Play Festival (named by *Atlanta Magazine* as one of the best Atlanta theatre events of the year), we had the honor and pleasure of presenting two performances of A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT WAYS I'D LIKE TO DIE, the one-man show that Tim McDonough wrote and performed. This funny and moving meditation on mortality provoked both laughter and tears from our enthusiastic audiences, many of whom stayed afterwards to talk about how much they had been moved by it.

Peter Hardy, Artistic Director, [Essential Theatre](#)

I have a soft spot for art about death but you really tackled the subject with a thoughtfulness and sense of humor that I appreciated. It's interesting that you focused on paintings during the "gallery" section because I found that you painted very clear images. I could see you marching into the woods or dead in the middle of a row of theater seats. The image of death on the back porch is particularly vivid. The piece was masterfully delivered! SUPER!

Greg Catellier, Artistic Director, [Catellier Dance Projects](#)

Your monologue was a gift – so rich and deep, moving, witty, searing, sobering, affirming. I find myself revisiting moments and phrases as I go through my day – actors' bios as unfinished obituaries, "Are you sure? OK," your wife's thumb softly caressing your arm, the layered references to plays and actors, ourselves as meaningless while everything around us is so full of meaning, gardens and dust and colonoscopies and still life (in Spanish it's also called 'naturaleza muerta'), consciousness as our first and best audience, museums and subways and theaters.

[Karen Stolley](#), Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Emory University

Thank you for shaking me to my core, for awakening me to the beauty and subtlety of the English language. Thank you for ... an inspired message ... your work shifted my perceptions of theater, love, life and mortality. That you could capture, in such fluid detail and elegant structure, collective hopes, dreams, fears, insecurities and joys ... is nothing short of utter genius. I sat, transfixed, eating your words as though they were food I never tasted before – but at the same time, they were comforting and oddly familiar. Thank you for affirming the essential and ferocious power of theater and sincerity. If the script were ever available, I would read it over and over and over again – adopting it as a manual for living.

George Staib, Artistic Director, [Staibdance](#)

I just loved it. It was so funny, thoughtful, joyous, and heartbreaking. I think I most loved how beautifully it celebrated being an actor!

Maia Knispel, Program Director, [Humorology Atlanta](#)

This is true theater and a wonder to behold.

[Brenda Bynum](#), award-winning Atlanta actress and director

It was inspiring, and gripping, and vulnerable, and very rich. Beautifully written - and exquisitely, vulnerably performed.

[Mary Lynn Owen](#), award-winning Atlanta actor and writer

People are still talking about it and the audience was moved and deeply engaged. Members of the community have been approaching me for the last few weeks about the show. It's clear that a lot of people have been talking about it and it's been a really good thing for the reputation of Barn Arts.

Andrew Simon, Artistic Director, [Barn Arts Collective](#)