

Play in the Gray

It would be far too easy to portray the Boston-based dance, music and performance troupe, All the Kings Men, as simply a highly evolved drag act. Comprised of a half-dozen multi-talented lesbian artists, ATKM has built on its drag-king foundation to probe the limits of gender identity and breaking down the barriers that limit sexual choice. It does so through the use of satire and crowd-pleasing comedy. In “**Play in the Gray**,” we meet the women, listen to their stories and watch as they transform themselves into a variety of different characters. Some of their observations are directly on-point, while others float in from left field. For performer Katie Allen, “Drag is putting on a skirt and high heels to give me long hair and being a girl.” Karin Webb allows, “When I put on the mask of a character, when I’m performing drag, the comment that I’m making can be any comment. There are comments that I care about, there are comments that I hope the audience gets out of it, but I’m also really not interested in dictating what those comments are or should be.” On stage, ATKM is a little bit of a lot of entertaining things. Off stage, we follow the women along on tour stops and visits to relatives, some of whom are still coming to grips with their sexuality. Kaitlin Meelia’s direction is unobtrusive, observant and not locked into any one letter in the initialism, LGBT(Q,U,I, P,TS,C,A).

By Gary Dretzka

<http://moviecitynews.com/2012/09/the-dvd-wrapup-goats-where-do-we-go-now-my-trip-to-al-qaeda-loved-ones-titanic-3d-nympho-divers-abfab-spartacus-more/>