

[US AND EVERYTHING WE OWN - Twenty Something Theatre](#)



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Written by Tessa Perkins

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*"This script is very strong with authentic dialogue and plenty of humorous moments."*

Stage Review

Show: Us and Everything We Own

Company: Twenty Something Theatre

Director and dramaturge: Sabrina Evertt

Playwright: Sean Minogue

Actors: Adam Lolacher, Julie Mclsaac, Jason Clift, Genevieve Fleming

Venue: PAL Studio Theatre

Run: April 5 – 13 2013



Reviewed by: Tessa Perkins

As the traditional markers of adulthood are happening later in life for the millennium generation, they are no longer following the same clear path of graduating from university, getting a job, buying a house, having a family, and then retiring with a pension. It is more difficult now to define at what point one truly becomes an adult as people live at home much longer and accept financial help from their parents much more as well. This play explores these ideas in a very relatable way as Charlie (Lolacher) and Rachel (Mclsaac) struggle to figure out how they will ever be able to afford a home of their own in Vancouver's tough market.

Rachel, a political science grad who works at a Best Western, is dead set on doing things on her own without any financial help from her wealthy parents, while Charlie is a self-made entrepreneur who moves from one business idea to the next, inspired by his working class, taxi driver father. While working at a coffee shop, Charlie meets Erin (Fleming), and they become business partners who plan to open their own café. Charlie really thinks that this latest idea will work out, but Rachel has her doubts.

Rachel's parents support Charlie's idea and want to invest in him, but Rachel forbids it saying that this goes against her belief in doing things for herself and not allowing them to control her with their money anymore. She also refuses to move into the condo that her parents have bought for her and is instead obsessing over floor plans and trying to convince Charlie that they should buy a place of their own.

Simon (Clift), Rachel's film-obsessed younger brother, looks up to Charlie and when he hears about his business plan he offers to help. Charlie figures that if Simon asks for the money from his parents, he can get the investment while getting around Rachel's rule. Things don't go as planned for any of these characters as they all try to figure out what it means to be successful and whether or not accepting money (or a condo) from your parents is selling out.

This script is very strong with authentic dialogue and plenty of humorous moments. I thought Simon was the most likable character as he was naïve and endearing in his movie references and awkwardness when he and Erin go out for dinner. Charlie and Erin's relationship is for the most part believable, except that I found Charlie's decent into delusion by the end of the play a bit hard to accept. While he was a bit overzealous and reckless with his business ideas, he still seemed to be able to understand reason until the final scenes.

I found this play to be extremely relatable as people my age are grappling with these very dilemmas. Should we live at home under our parents' control while accepting free rent and food, or should we become independent, move out, and work for everything while struggling to afford a home of our own? I think the best solution would be somewhere in between these two options, but for most people compromising their independence seems a small price to pay if it means they can someday actually purchase their own home. Especially in Vancouver, I think twenty somethings are worried about how they will ever be able to afford to buy a home while they struggle to find decent employment, and this play captures that anxiety very well through well rounded characters and an engaging plot.