



The Death of Norman Tortilla

Tuesday, 20 March 2012 - Wednesday, 11 April 2012
 Tuesday - Wednesday: 19:30 - 21:00

[Tristan Bates Theatre](#), 1a Tower Street, Covent Garden, WC2H 9NP

Theatre: , [Fringe](#)

How Much: £14.00 (Tickets) , £10.00 (Concessions)

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Like the best one act plays, this presents an intense, explosive few hours in which merry hell breaks loose among a few exceptionally eccentric characters. In *The Death of Norman Tortilla*, the cast is comprised of a theatrical older gay man, an overly pushy, chatty saleswoman and a remarkably hard-working Eastern European migrant worker – essentially three contemporary stereotypes. In Charlotte Coates' debut, though, they immediately begin to peel through their layers of finely crafted emotional complexity.

The titular Norman Tortilla is obsessed with writing his life-story before he dies and the action comes from his attempts to enlist the other two in his memorial task. Norman's ludicrous flights of emotion cause the first accident of the piece and it soon begins to show all the hallmarks of a farce until it takes a rather more Titus Andronicus-esque twist towards the gory. But the psychological complexity of the writing, the sharpness of the dialogue and the intensely convincing contrasts of the personalities remain throughout. The acting renders the three characters convincing and miniature studies of narcissism, celebrity culture, power abuse and sexual desire abound. This new playwright is one you'd be advised to keep an eye on.

Vicky Sparrow

