

The Book of Adam

Autobiography of the First Human Clone



A Novel by Robert M. Hopper

Review

Burn This

by [Cygnet Theatre Company](#)

You can make it through life just going through the motions and probably be content. Or you can shake yourself out of the routine, living your life with passion, diving for the brass ring even if it means you might fall off the horse. Lanford Wilson's character piece *Burn This* brings us into the lives of four intelligent and artistic thirtysomethings in New York who are each making it fairly well, but who have settled for something far less than what they wanted. Even when what they desire is there for the taking, they fight it. There can be a lot of risk in going for what you really want.

Director **Kristianne Kurner** and her extraordinary cast of four actors took on this challenging script and created some strong and compelling characters. As we come into the story, a friend of three of them has died. **His death, and the introduction of his volatile brother Pale, begins to change their lives and rekindle long dormant embers.**

Jessica John is Anna, the beautiful choreographer who has lived most of her existence without a social life and who lost her muse when their friend died. **David McBean** is

Anna's gay roommate Larry who has the role of comic relief, which David provides with style and ease. Anna's boyfriend is Burton (**Manny Fernandes**), a highly successful but highly cynical screenwriter. He doesn't bother to write anything that would inspire him because he thinks the only films that sell are crappy screenplays. **Pale**

(Jeffrey Jones in a riveting performance) bursts into Anna's apartment and her life when he arrives in the dead of night to pick up his deceased brother's things. Fiery, crude, and possibly manic-depressant, he teeters between disregard for the world and embracing it more tightly than anyone. He also sends Anna and Burton's relationship



teetering as Anna is drawn to Pale's fire, with Anna having to choose between the stable, rich guy and the dangerous but exciting one. The new dynamic causes all of them to rethink their lives.

Although the script is a bit bloated, the show features deeply crafted characters portrayed to perfection by the cast, terrific dialogue, with **searing spirit and energy felt throughout**. The entire story takes place in **Sean Murray's** set – an apartment Anna and Larry have lived in for three years, the walls still unpainted with paint supplies tucked aside in a corner. They had made their apartment functional. But just as they had done with their lives, they stopped there.

Performs through February 13, 2005.

[Rob Hopper](#)

San Diego Playbill

~ Cast ~

Burton: Manny Fernandes

Anna: Jessica John

Pale: Jeffrey Jones

Larry: David McBean

Director: Kristianne Kurner

Scenic Design: Sean Murray

Lighting Design: Eric Lotze

Sound Design: Kenny Lewis

Costume Design: Shelly Williams

Fight Choreography: Collen Kelly