

LEVELS THE PLAY by CJ Jura and Abby Grass

LEVELS
the play

JULY 6TH-
JULY 16TH
2023

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FRINGE
FESTIVAL

FEATURING ORIGINAL MUSIC
CREATED BY ABBY GRASS
&
CLARENCE (CJ) JURA

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CAPITAL SOUND COLLECTIVE



CJ Jura



Abby Grass

INFORMATION

<https://ttdb.ca/shows/levels-the-play/>

STREAM THE ALBUM

https://music.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_kjcCxul5yGSRuD-YL93pXfqFbdVX4d_I8

PROGRAM

https://d1fdloi71mui9q.cloudfront.net/YcIXlc8qTqSDZCqjEUc1_Levels%20the%20Play%20Program.pdf

VIDEO EXCERPT

Song- "Together"

https://music.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_kjcCxul5yGSRuD-YL93pXfqFbdVX4d_I8&si=h0W_VslzitoqHfzA

REVIEW

A VIEW FROM THE BOX, July 7, 2023.

JANINE MARLEY

Levels the Play

Final exam question: what do you get when you add six friends in grade twelve, trying to find their identities, a date to prom, and a college program, plus a healthy dose of music, Shakespeare, and voguing? You get *Levels the Play*! An excellent play with music created and directed by Abby Grass and Clarence (CJ) Jura, *Levels the Play* delves into the difficult but very real issues facing today's youth.

While dealing with very heavy and adult material at times, *Levels the Play* shows the reality of the breadth of issues facing today's youth. The discussion around sexuality, gender identity, and sexual assault are handled with care by the writers and performers. However, seeing these issues discussed, particularly in the context of young adults, is extremely important and I commend the creators on tackling these subjects. All of this is juxtaposed with the delightful performances in the play; the musical numbers are great fun, and provide the perfect balance for the play.

Levels the Play boasts a wildly talented cast of young artists: Nadia Casandra, Tavaree Daniel-Simms, Annelise Forbes, Luca McPhee, Isaiah Nembhard, Chris Otchere. Throughout the play we see what true triple-threats they are! Chris Otchere's ballroom performance during the piece is definitely a highlight for me, as well as the history given about the ballroom scene and its importance to queer culture.

Levels the Play is joyful, real, and heartwarming. I highly recommend seeing it during Fringe. And if you love the original music for the piece, like I do, you can download the album on your favourite streaming platform!