



Casus: You & I

by [Sam Nead](#)

A stunning depiction of life, love, trust and balance

We might live in a world that's much more accepting of homosexuality than it used to be, but love between two men or two women still isn't seen onstage very often. Casus: You & I is a beautiful and open portrayal of the relationship between two men.

Jesse Scott and Lachlan McAulay dazzle with their incredible circus skills as they show off their talents in acrobatics, hoops, daring feats of balance involving a precarious stack of chairs and even aerial trapeze. They are marvellous performers, executing each move with precision and simplicity.

As a duo of two men, their relationship shows an interesting balance, as - despite Scott being significantly taller than McAulay - they both take turns to carry the other, something rarely seen in the more 'conventional' duo of man and woman. Both have strength, and both have to support the other at times, which I think is a crucial part of a relationship.

With support comes trust, and the absolute trust between the two men is clear to see; most of the stunts they do would be impossible without it. The setting is a domestic one, which sees both men occasionally separating to do their own things before coming back together in a simple display of the need for both dependence and space. Every interaction is natural and has a beautiful flow that clearly shows how easily the two fit together.

The show also challenges conventional standards of masculinity, with Scott and McAulay playfully dressing up in various dresses and heels to the poignant sound of the song 'Boys Don't Cry'.

It's relatively rare to see a full standing ovation at a Fringe show, but this got one when I went, and I wouldn't be surprised if it receives one for every show. It certainly deserves it.

Review: Casus: You & I at Assembly Roxy



The latest show from Casus Circus founders Jesse Scott and Lachlan McAulay, *You & I* is a deeply felt and visually stunning piece of physical theatre that takes an intimate look at love and a relationship between two men.

Shown in a former church hall, the stage presents a simple apartment with a looming high ceiling, the perfect setting for a show that plays between the domestic and the fantastical. At times moving playfully through everyday actions and then fluidly transitioning into incredible acts of strength and acrobatics, Casus invites us into their private world, a representation of both their internal and external selves. Often moving as one unit intertwined, Scott and McAulay are hypnotic performers who convey an impressive range of nuanced emotions without speech. Tender, then melancholic, joyful then frenzied, the storytelling is thoughtfully shaped by an ever changing ebb and flow of moods and energies that is beautifully mirrored by the sound and lighting design.

As a circus act, Casus don't disappoint. There are audible gasps and applause scattered throughout the show, and the audience is transfixed from beginning to end. Trapeze? Hoops? A tower of chairs? Casus have you covered.

Not just a portrait of love, *You & I* also addresses and challenges some of the preconceptions of what a romantic relationship between two men looks like. At one point, they entertain each other by dressing up. Cycling through a plethora of different stereotypes, they try on sequined dresses, leather straps, mini shorts and sailor hats until they finally return to their own individual style in a beautiful visual metaphor of self-acceptance.

When the performance comes to an end, the audience is visibly moved and there's a standing ovation. The audience have spoken: *You & I* is a must-see.

Casus: You & I, Assembly Roxy, Aug 2-26, 3.10

By [Imogen Rowe](#) - Posted on 11 August 2018



Returning with a two man show to this year's fringe, Jesse Scott and Lachlan McAulay from Casus Circus bring *You & I* to the Assembly Roxy and succeed in creating an intimate and beautiful performance.

The most wonderful thing about this duet is that it is visible and honest. When the rain comes and they are stuck indoors, these two men take an hour away from the rush and hustle of the world to entertain one another, have fun, and enjoy the company of the other. What they create onstage is a personal snapshot of love between two men, and a beautiful paragraph in the chapter of this relationship.

Casus: You & I mixes impressive circus skills and the artistry of dance with fluid physical theatre that speaks volumes with the quality of movement. There is light and shade, comedy and feeling. Occasionally when they stray from the physical disciplines a few things go astray, but this is easily forgivable with the gentle charisma of the two performers. There is an imperfect quality to it even when they are entirely in control; the shake of a muscle, the tremble of a lift hints of shyness, and the ultimate closeness of the two performers.

The performance is understated, and the storytelling is gorgeous. It is true that the circus skilful show are severely impressive, but we are allowed enough time to wonder at them - it is calm and gentle enough to feel the heartbeat of the performance. The luxurious quality of a rainy day and having nothing to do but enjoy each other's company until the rain passes is a welcome find in the hustle of the fringe.