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TopBilling

# A Queen for the Season

By Danielle Sullivan



*On the search for a friend in 'The Snow Queen' at Urban Stages.*

How far would you go for a friend? If you are anything like Gerda, the lead character in **"The Snow Queen"**, the new production playing at Urban Stages, the answer is: pretty far indeed.

Based on the classic tale by Hans Christian Andersen, this production puts a modern spin on the story by bringing Gerda and her good friend, Kay, to New York City. Kay is playing with Gerda one day on the streets of New York when a tear from the Snow Queen's mirror becomes lodged in his eye, forcing all the thoughts that typically make him sad (like his parents constant fighting) to become magnified. He quickly is transported to the world of the Snow Queen and like her, all of his pain is soon replaced with numbness.

Gerda searches around the world for Kay, facing countless obstacles

along the way: a giant squid, Robber Maiden, and even a river become dangerous challenges. She ultimately realizes that she has all the power and strength she needs to face any obstacle and never gives up looking for her friend.

Written by Stanton Wood, this four-person play stars Utkarsh Ambudkar (Kay) and Susan Heyward (Gerda), Lanna Joffrey (The Snow Queen), and Ned Massey (Reindeer) giving outstanding performances. Joffrey and Massey play multiple roles throughout. Although there were many very young children in the audience, the play has enough of a storyline to appeal to older kids, and even teens. Quirky jokes and New York City references entertain adults and the stage lighting and inventive scenery bring the story to life.

The modern day *Snow Queen* is a heartwarming rendition of the original and a great way to introduce the very young to both theater and classic tales. As the audience left after the opening day performance, tiny specks of snowflakes quietly fell outside Urban Stages; after all, the Snow Queen did promise to fly around New York City every now and then.

### **Info:**

*Where:* Urban Stages, 259 West 30th Street (between Seventh and Eighth Avenues)

*When:* Thru January 15.

*How much:* \$25.

*For tickets and further information, call Smarttix, (212) 868-4444*

*or visit [www.smarttix.com](http://www.smarttix.com) or [www.urbanstages.com](http://www.urbanstages.com).*