



The Will To Be

Rating: ****

A compelling imagining of the plight of an up and coming academic in the 1960s, faced with termination for acts of “gross indecency”.

It’s only very recently that our society has even attempted to accept as uncontroversial that men and women might be attracted to, and want to have relationships with members of their own sex.

As this piece, written, produced and performed by Mark Salvestro shows, homosexuals not only had to hide their true nature, but were until not that long ago, actually criminalised because of it and fiercely discriminated against.

The protagonist is a university lecturer in the early 1960s, who is sacked on the cusp of achieving tenure, but as an “act of mercy”, is not referred to the authorities.

His story, of how he came to be a married man who had until now been able to ignore or suppress his true feelings, must have been the painful existence lived out by many men and women of the time.

He now must decide how he reacts to being thrust into a new reality, in which his plans, even though built on a false foundation, are shattered

Cameron England – The Advertiser