

## ***Lips Together, Teeth Apart***

[NEW REVIEW] Profile Theatre kicks off its 15th anniversary with a fantastic bang, returning to the work of Terrence McNally for a play about two straight couples spending a weekend in the Fire Island beach house of the gay brother of one of the women, who has just died of AIDS. The play may begin by tickling your funny bone, but it swerves into a brutally honest

exploration of the human condition. Directed by Jane Unger, *Lips Together* takes the archetypal woe-is-me genre of struggle sans adversity and swaps annoying calls for pity with an irresistible case for empathy, creating an intricately woven tale of intimacy in the process. Each of the four characters' flaws ring with such truth, not the least of which is Chloe Haddock (Susannah Mars), whose nerve-grinding perkiness and Kristen Wiig-esque comedic flair serve only as the lid on a boiling pot of anguish. Hilarious, troubling and refreshing, this performance is a must-see. NATALIE BAKER. *Theater! Theatre!*, 3430 SE Belmont St., 242-0080. 7:30 pm Wednesdays-Saturdays, 2 pm Sundays. Closes Oct. 23. \$16-\$30.