

By [Steven Vargas](#),

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On Monday, I went to the **Renberg Theatre** in Hollywood to see “**The Bottoming Process**” by **Nicholas Pilapil**. The play, co-produced by **IAMA Theatre Company** and the **Los Angeles LGBT Center**, began as part of IAMA’s inaugural **Under 30 Playwrights Lab** in 2019 and finally came to fruition in 2023. “The Bottoming Process” follows the relationship of Milo (**George Salazar**) and John (**Rick Cosnett**). Milo is a young, Filipino aspiring writer. John is an older, white, well-known YA author. As an unexpected encounter grew into a committed relationship, complications of race and power arose.

It is a complex story about what it means to be in a gay interracial relationship. Over the course of the show, Milo achieved his dream of becoming a beloved writer and John inched closer to obscurity. Fights ensued. As the arguments piled atop one another, John’s white privilege peeked through. Underneath the common arguments and power dynamics of sexual positions, Pilapil’s voice and commentary shined. The story addressed the sexual stereotypes placed on Asian Americans and how they manifest in relationships, and the reason people of color date white people.



“The Bottoming Process” follows the relationship of Milo (George Salazar) and John (Rick Cosnett).

(Jeff Lorch)

“The Bottoming Process” is about the desire to be loved in a world that tells you that you are unlovable. After looking for it in all the wrong ways and in all the wrong places, Milo reclaimed his story. He had all the love he needed within himself. “The Bottoming Process” runs until **June 12** and tickets cost **\$35**. More details can be found on [IAMA Theatre Company’s website](#).