

FORT GANSEVOORT



Sherie Loves Norbert & Vice-Versa, But... Genius two-hander at 54 Below; Nelson Sullivan on Gansevoort

July 18, 2019
By David Noh

“A Look Back: Fifty Years After Stonewall” is an art exhibit running through August 10, at Fort Gansevoort, which is that brownstone that stands in the very middle of the Meat Market. I used to visit there when it was the home of one of the show’s subjects (along with Peter Hujar, Kate Millet, David Wojnarowicz, and Greer Lankton), the late videographer Nelson Sullivan.

A lovely, louche true gentleman of the South, he was a Downtown fixture in the mythic 1980s, a heavy video camera forever perched on one shoulder, as he captured forever the fabulously raffish and magical characters of the club and party scene, priceless footage that you can now see on his well-kept YouTube profile. Sullivan superstars included Sylvia Miles (a testament to his gallant forbearance), RuPaul in his earliest days in town, Michael Musto, Lady Bunny, the great Ethyl Eichelberger, Tish Gervais, Lahoma Van Zandt and, even *moi*, recorded one sunny day on his roof when he, Musto, and I engaged in an uproarious game of Trivial Pursuit (movie version).

Nelson was truly one-of-a-kind, obsessed in just the right way (as we all were), not one to suffer fools, and he left us much too soon. But, watching the wonder on these gay millennials’ faces at the warm reunion of an opening (July 11) looking at all those youthful East Village *rara avis*es kicking up their cha cha heels — each one virtually defining camp, Ms. Wintour — it did my heart good to know that his work will live on forever.

TWOHANDER | *Feinstein’s/ 54 Below, 254 W. 54th St.* | *Jul. 18-21, Jul. 25-28 at 7 p.m.; Jul. 21 at 9:30 p.m.* | \$70-\$145, plus \$25 food & drink minimum | 54below.com

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A LOOK BACK: FIFTY YEARS AFTER STONEWALL | Fort Gansevoort, 5 Ninth Ave. | Through Aug. 10:
Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. | fortgansevoort.com

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