

## Marcelo Teson

on Facebook, November 27, 2015

Last night my family and I went to see The Hidden Room Theatre's wonderful production of Nahum Tate's King Lear (rewritten in 1680 for Restoration tastes, and performed using Restoration-style acting and production). It was really unique and fascinating to see, and Tate's rewrite, while inferior to the original, wasn't chintzy or hokey or stupid. It had its own moments and gems. The actors (including [Robert Matney](#)) were on the top of their game, and the play was "expertly directed" (my brother's words) and brought to life.

Best of all, the whole production was infused with a sense of discovery and wonder, of seeing something new beyond the normal Shakespeare performed for modern audiences. It felt like we would never see something like this again. This kind of contextual history is so crucial to our culture, and it's wonderful that Hidden Room continues to offer these experiences to Austinites.

My family is full of theatre nerds (my brother is a director and actor with mad Shakespeare experience, my mom is a regular theatregoer and Shakespeare fan, my brother's gf teaches the Humanities), and they were all delighted by the production from the moment we walked into the theatre space. There was so much vision in crafting the entire experience for the audience, and I so appreciate that attention to detail.

I hadn't really read Lear since Mrs. Theibert's class in high school, where we watched the Olivier version after reading it. I did see "Ran" in college, but it's been ten years since I interacted with this amazing play. Tate's version made me want to dive in and read the original again, to rediscover its power. It re-awoke the Shakespearean in me after a decade of film-related realism.

Anyhoo, this was a really great way to cap our Thanksgiving break. Thank you [Beth Burns](#) for such a unique and magical evening! We loved every second of it. The show closes this weekend so if you wanna go you gotta move fast.