



Love! Valour! Compassion!

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The play revolves around eight gay men who gather for three summer weekends at a lakeside house in Dutchess County, New York, where they relax, reflect, and plan for survival in an era plagued by AIDS.

Love! Valour! Compassion! won the 1995 Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for best Play, along with several other awards. McNally later adapted the script for the 1997 film of the same name.

Love! Valour! Compassion! Details

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Author : Terrence McNally

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From Reader Review Love! Valour! Compassion! for online ebook

Emma Getz says

This play starts out funny and sweet and develops a horrible bitterness and sadness while still being funny and sweet and overall incredibly powerful in its own quiet way. I especially loved the moments taken out of the timeline, the dreamlike quality and the power of every character telling the audience about their lives and of course, their deaths.

Joseph Crupper says

McNally writes in the intro that a play is best seen and not read.

I must agree.

Sam Bux Romatet says

3.5?

Dave says

A very moving drama.

Ollie says

This is such a beautiful, well-written play!!! I especially like the extended metaphors and the overlapping lines in different scenes. My favorite character is Buzz <3

Joshua says

Satisfyingly quiet. A closer examination of the ever-changing ties that bind in a group of gay friends who meet every summer. McNally is wonderfully warm and understanding of his characters (even when they behave badly) and seeks to normalize what many people find to be frightening and foreign. The stage craft of it is beautiful as well and something many playwrights should take to heart as it embraces a more theatrical reality than many plays often present. Very lovely and very human. And that ending? ...Anyway.

Leigh says

To be completely honest, I don't think this is a great play; but I love the original cast (and, relatedly, the film adaptation) so incredibly much that L! V! C! will always have a special place in my heart.

Andrew says

A very good story with characters you really care about.

Brian McCann says

Brilliant in its construction, execution, and characters' arcs.

Tamer Lorika says

HOLY SNAP

I stayed up until 1:20 in the morning reading this. Never mind that I had been asleep on my feet all day. Never mind that I had to wake up early the next morning. Never mind all of that. This was... spectacular. I found myself laughing and sobbing and wishing so hard that it ended somehow different.

This is what I want, ladies. I want to write a play like THIS. One that leaves you full of love and loneliness and feeling like you've been punched in the gut.

Ethan Day says

Love! Valour! Compassion! By Terrence McNally – Okay...so it's a play, not a novel or short story. But it's totally bril so it has to be included in this list. I know some people can't get into reading plays the same way they do a book, and maybe it's the writer in me, but I LOVE it. I get to create the sets in my mind, cast it with actors I like and basically direct the entire thing in my head while I'm reading it. Try it sometime if you haven't already. It's fun, damn it!! :) Other than playing director, the story is also in my opinion, one of the best and most true depictions of gay men I've ever read. I can honestly say I either am or know every single one of the characters and like life – it is at times funny & sad, sexy & romantic, as well as sweet & sarcastic. If you just can't get into reading the play, then watch the film. For me the play is better, but either way, McNally will have you running the emotional gamut, yet somehow leaving you with this incredible feeling of hopefulness.

From my post, The Inside Reader on Elisa Rolle's Reviews & Ramblings -
<http://elisa-rolle.livejournal.com/98440>

Brittany Petruzzi says

I will never understand what compels people to like plays like this. What little truth it contains is buried beneath unfaithfulness, lack of compassion, and cowardice, none of which actually have consequences. No thanks.

Jon Hewelt says

It's pretty good!

A little exhausting, at times, but I think that's intentional. These characters all operate within the art world, and the art world--to my experience and understanding--largely comprises bold and contrasting personalities. Of course the dialogue may be a little much at times.

But that's the big draw with Love! Valour! Compassion! It's a wonderful story, but small. More interesting, I think, is watching the characters interact with one another, in this secluded country house, over one fateful summer. Frankly, I wouldn't even need a definitive plot to invest in these characters. Watching them live is something grand in and of itself.

I'd offer more details but I have none: I read this a while back and don't remember much. But the lack of memory should not indicate a lack in quality. Love! Valour! Compassion! is a wonderful, compelling work of theatre. I definitely recommend you check it out.
