



Superior Donuts

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Superior Donuts takes place in the historic Uptown neighborhood of Chicago, where Arthur Przybyszewski runs the donut shop that has been in his family for sixty years. Franco Wicks, a young black man and Arthur's only employee, wants to modernize the shop, while Arthur is more content to spend the day smoking weed and reminiscing about his Polish immigrant father. This provocative comedy, set in the heart of one of Chicago's most diverse communities, explores the challenges of embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship.

Superior Donuts Details

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Author : Tracy Letts

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From Reader Review Superior Donuts for online ebook

Hank Lin says

Since O'Neill, the great American play has been in a constant state of flux, reinventing itself, but always finding the remnants of its melodramatic, poetical, and sometimes suprarrealistic forbears. Superior Donuts gestates on the principal questions of the American play: the working class, the American Dream, the dissolution of marriage, failed father figures, and others. It's both enhanced and diminished by the American drama's constricting vision. There isn't as much grandstanding, or vast revelations of character. The audience may not be seized by the recognition of pity and fear. But it does manage to creep up, slowly and unpretentiously, to a moment's recognition, of sadness or sympathy. Like a ghost in the shell, which is really all I can call the American play, it's a hollowed out form of its former self. That's not a bad thing, though, as it is all a matter of taste. We keep asking ourselves, when we watch or read a new American play, where is the Imago that was supposed to blossom out of its cocoon? But in this new era, the medium elects to show you the remnants of the chrysalis; the butterfly is nowhere to be found, but the shell is evidence that it must exist, right?

Helen says

Meh. I liked it and thought the friendships were really nice and it was also funny sometimes but didn't leave a huge impact overall, even though it could have.

Morgan says

Underrated. Funny and heart-wrenching

Jackson Burnett says

Way too many too many witty words. The story arc drops into the play as if the author all of a sudden remembered a story line was needed. This should not have been a final draft.

David says

The French have a donut thru call pet de none, which means "nun's fart." The story is that a young nun living in an abbey was presiding s meal when she suddenly...emitted flatus. The other nuns laughed at her and she was so startled that she dropped a ball of dough into the bubbling cauldron, accidentally inventing the donut.

Nicolas says

I liked this play despite not really liking it. It's hard to explain. I was invested in the relationship between

Arthur & Franco and for the most part I was right with the narrative. Still, it never quite went as far as I wanted it to. I'd like to see it onstage sometime because I think it could work. However, I wanted more than I got from the page. In conclusion, I liked it despite not really liking it.

Taylor Hudson says

Definitely a disappointing venture for Tracy Letts. He has proven himself to be one of the best playwrights alive, but this play just doesn't live up to his previous work. The soliloquies seem odd and don't quite fit the style, we have a slew of unchanging background characters, and a very trite garnish of plot involving a gambling debt that is so far removed from the growth of the two main characters that it is pointless.

The redeeming qualities of this play lie in the two beautiful characters Arthur and Franco, and their growing friendship. Their relationship and connection over Franco's newly finished "Great American Novel" is so lovely that it makes it even more disappointing that the plot had to unfold the way it did - or that it had to be dropped on us half way through the second act.

Can we just take these two characters and their relationship and move them to a new play, please?

Andrew says

Tracey Letts's sitcom. Very different from his other work, but still obviously a Tracey Letts joint. Enjoyable, funny, and worth your time- though I am a little concerned how this got turned into a show on CBS.

Douglas Castagna says

I watched the show first and noticed by the third episode that it was based on this play. The show is a comedy, and the play, well, that is not a comedy.

Some things are carried over, but the play is much darker, and sad, and full of pain and humor, and sadness, and redemption and all the motions of the human condition. The play goes by fast as it is around 90 pages and I would imagine just about an hour and a half of live action. There is a lot happening here and a lot of subtext as well. A good solid play from a a writer we have come to expect greatness from.

Brandon says

Really liked this one!

Gabby says

Full of humor and honesty at it's heart but there are flaws.

The combination of age and culture between Arthur and Franco is touching and extremely relative. The play is then encompassed with donuts and filled with Deep Space references and funny Russians. The stock ensemble of characters besides Franco and Arthur don't push much along and Arthur's monologues of his past don't aid the story.

Franco's book isn't enough to push from Act 1 to Act 2. There are structural flaws where we, as an audience, simply want to spend time with this young, hopeful man and his grumpy sidekick.

Clifton says

This play felt like mandatory reading, honestly. 14 years ago I wrote this play that took place at an old diner in Uptown...and it never came close to this characterization or tension or wit. The voices here are clear and wonderful. Worth reading (and emulating), especially for those of us that lived in this neighborhood.

Michelle says

Having seen the TV show first, I definitely enjoy the show more.

Jason says

I saw a production of this play in Boston last year and was incredibly moved. I really wanted to read the script, to see if it read as well as it played (which unfortunately, is not always the case), and I have to say, it was just as moving to read this piece as it was to see-so much so, that I was sobbing on the train on the way to work this morning when I finished it. The thing I really adore about Mr. Letts' work is that it's real-whether reading it or seeing it, you know these people-they aren't characters, they are fully realized human beings, flaws and joys and all.

Adrian Collins says

I am always delighted to read plays that focus in on oddly matched friendships. The chemistry between Arthur and Franco is clear on the page, and I can just imagine seeing it onstage and smiling as they talk about their dreams. This play touches on themes of racism, immigration, vices, history catching up to you, and the ability or inability to change your future. I think this play is lovely.
