

How to Write a Play Review

INTRODUCTION

In your first paragraph, give the title of the play, the playwright's name, the date you saw the performance and describe your expectations for the performance.

THE PLAY ITSELF

Next, a **BRIEF** overview of the plot—no more than two or three concise paragraphs. Identify the major themes and issues that the play highlights—**include specific examples from the plot to support your opinion**. Also include an **informed opinion** about whether the play as written was any good—make sure you state your reasons for your opinion. (This is where you analyze and consider entertainment value, historical and social background, etc.)

THE OVERALL PRODUCTION

Discuss how the play was realized in performance. How did the production highlight the themes and issues through the use of set, costumes, lighting, and sound. **Provide specific examples to support your evaluation.**

THE PERFORMERS

Discuss the acting and actors—how did they play the characters, what choices were apparent and how effective were the characterizations and the performances—did it all work? **Use your program for the play to give the names of the characters/actors you liked/disliked.** Focus on the voices, characterizations, actions and physicalities of each performer to explain why you liked/disliked them. **Include the names of at least 3 actors** for this section of your paper and use the language of the actor (i.e. "objective", "obstacle", "given circumstances") to describe their work.

COMMENDATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

State what you liked in the performance and make suggestions about what would have improved your enjoyment of the production. **Again—examples—detail—and clearly stated reasons.**

CONCLUSION—Summarize and state a conclusion based on the observations you presented above.

This is one approach to responding in writing to a live performance—it is certainly **NOT** the *only* way you can approach the task. This is a guideline to get you started—your **BEST** writing will come when you find your own **personal** style for writing—in the meantime experiment with variations of the structure above. Your review should be **2 pages in length, 12 point font, double spaced.**

QUEENSBOROUGH
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH COMMUNICATION AND THEATRE ARTS
2015-16 SEASON PRESENTS



Written By
Charles Mee

Directed By
Georgia McGill

BIG LOVE

THE SHADOWBOX THEATRE
(Mature Content)

Friday, December 4 & 11
at 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 5 & 12
at 7:30 pm

Thursday, December 10
at 7:30 pm

Special \$1.00 Matinee Wednesday, December 9 at 12:15 pm

QCC Box Office: 718-631-6311 QCC Web Site: www.qcc.cuny.edu

TICKET PRICES: General Admission: \$10; Seniors, Students & Veterans \$5; QCC Students, Faculty and Staff \$3

QUEENSBOROUGH
COMMUNITY COLLEGE 
DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH COMMUNICATION AND THEATRE ARTS
presents

Big Love

By Charles Mee
Directed by Georgia McGill

Scenic Design: Josh Rothenberg

Lighting Design: Debra Dumas

Costume Design: Allison Crutchfield

Fight Choreography: Alicia Rodis

Assistant to Fight Choreographer: Marcus Watson

Movement Coach: Heather Huggins

Stage Manager: Ssence Festus

Assistant Stage Manager: Tuquan Smith

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.
Please be aware that even the light from phones while texting
can be a great annoyance to your neighbors in the audience.

The taking of photographs, video, or the use of any recording device
during this production is strictly forbidden.

DURING THE COURSE OF THIS PRODUCTION PLEASE BE AWARE
THAT STROBE LIGHTS ARE USED.

Latecomers will be not be seated