



Mr. Marmalade

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Lucy is a four-year-old girl with a very active imagination. Unfortunately, her imaginary friend Mr. Marmalade doesn't have much time for her. Not to mention he beats up his personal assistant, has a cocaine addiction, and a penchant for pornography and very long dildos. Larry, her only real friend, is the youngest suicide attempt in the history of New Jersey. MR. MARMALADE is a savage black comedy about what it takes to grow up in these difficult times.

Mr. Marmalade Details

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From Reader Review Mr. Marmalade for online ebook

Gregorio says

Very funny, with great set ups and a good imagination. The play sort of hobbles at the end with where it's going, and it feels like there is one or two too many characters, but the set ups for jokes are great, as well as the pay off, even if it is a similar style of joke being set up over and over again. Very fun read.

Joseph says

I love a quirky script that can make me laugh out loud, and disturb me at the same time. Would love to direct this show. Great plot, and characters that are challenging!

Brennin Weiswerda says

7M, 3W (Smaller with doubling)

A lovely, funny, weird play. Lucy's a lonely little 4 year old girl who "Has a vivid imagination." Her mother is neglectful (a cliche stays-out-late-and-sleeps-with-strange-men mother), and her babysitter's more interested in sleeping with her boyfriend than in paying attention to Lucy (whose loneliness is very vividly painted). Lucy's main made-up friend is Mr. Marmalade, who's in a romantic relationship with his assistant, Bradley (the most interesting relationship in the play). Throughout the play Mr. Marmalade's heroin addiction worsens, he goes to rehab, marries Lucy, has a baby with her, is unhappy, and kills himself.

Larry, Lucy's babysitter's boyfriend's younger brother, is a suicidal 5 year old (Larry can see Mr. M & Bradley, and has imaginary friends of his own--a cactus and a sunflower). He's a compulsive liar, and in many ways, his layers of self-deception ("I'm happy being alone." "I lied; I'm lonely") are more interesting than Lucy's.

You can see, at four years old, how Lucy could end up actually playing out all of the roles that she make-believes. She either plays house where everything is perfect, or a stilted form of 'doctor' that is all a fumbling exploration of sexuality, or fails to create a new reality if her partners don't play along--but whenever the games get to real, they all go a bit sideways, and everyone ends up unhappy.

One of the more interesting instances of make believe is Bradley lying to hide Mr. M's abusive nature. (I fell down stairs! Skiing accident!)

The play goes so quickly between Lucy in the real world, Lucy interacting with her make-believe friends, and Lucy playing make-believe with her make-believe friends, that there are very few satisfying sustained scenes. The strength of the play is the absurd premise and the moments of transparency where reality is revealed through how she creates her fantasies.

Megan Page says

Wow. This made me incredibly uncomfortable. It was really well done and I like it a lot, but still... To think what this poor little girl had to have witnessed in order to imagine these things. To think what she's been through... To think this must be part of her daily life. Wow.

Cassie says

I read this at the bookshop behind the counter on a rainy saturday morning. Later, I bought it for £1.99, and now it sits by my bedside table with nobody understanding it.

Nick K says

I'm not a fan of adults playing children. I just find it irritating. I also felt the story fell flat and cliché at times, but I'd still like to see a well done production of the piece.

Jana says

really really good!

I'm psychoanalysing Lucy for my essay. This is hard because there is so MUCH!
