



By Aaron Posner, from Kurt Vonnegut short stories

March 4, 5, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19 at 8pm
Sunday March 13th at 2pm *followed by a discussion with the artists*

All performances are held at
Penelope's Venue, 12219 Dix Toledo Road in Southgate, MI

Suggested companion reading: *Welcome to the Monkey House*, a collection of Vonnegut short stories which includes the three stories on which the play is based: *Long Walk to Forever*, *Who am I This Time?* and *Go Back to Your Precious Wife and Son*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) At the beginning of the play our narrator, Tom, posits that the play is about love, "pure and complicated," and that everyone is fascinated by love. What stories come to mind when you think of love (could be examples from books, plays, movies, tv, real life)? How do these other stories embrace love as pure and complicated?
- 2) What is the theme of love within each story & how does it compare or contrast with the ideas of love proffered up in the other stories?
- 3) How does having a narrator who places himself in each of the stories strengthen the play? Would the play be as powerful or impactful, if all three stories were told separately or with different narrators?
- 4) Read the stories on which the play is based. How did the play stay true to the originals? How did it vary?
- 5) In Vonnegut's introduction to his collection of short stories, *Welcome to the Monkey House*, he reveals that *Long Walk to Forever* is autobiographical: "an afternoon I spent with my wife to be," and originally titled *Hell To Get Along With*. Does this change how you view the story? Does knowing that Vonnegut and his wife later divorced change your view?
- 6) Which character's take on or approach to love is closest to your own? Which is the furthest?
- 7) The setting for the play, North Crawford, is described as a small town where "things change just about as quickly as the rules of chess." How is this small town and the idea of change represented in each story? What impact does this small town have on the characters represented in this play?
- 8) How might you sum up the play's thesis about love in one sentence?

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