



I Remember Mama: Broadway Version

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Shows how Mama, with the help of her husband and Uncle Chris, brings up the children in their modest San Francisco home during the early years of the century. Mama, a sweet and capable manager, sees her children through childhood, manages to educate them and to see one of her daughters begin her career as a writer. Mama's sisters and uncle furnish a rich background for a great deal of comedy and a little incidental tragedy, while the doings of the children manage to keep everyone in pleasant turmoil. No description can do justice to the rich characterizations that fill the author's canvas. A High School version (ISBN 0-8222-0550-5) is also available at the same price. Groups interested should specify which version."

I Remember Mama: Broadway Version Details

Date : Published January 1st 1998 by Dramatists Play Service (first published 1945)

ISBN : 9780822205494

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Format : Paperback 85 pages

Genre : Plays, Fiction, Drama, Theatre, Classics

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Robert says

Play adapted from "Mama's Bank Account." Have read it several times, but have never seen it performed (other than the movie of the same name, which is great).

Read:

1978

Valerie says

We seem to be referring to different books/plays, etc.

The book I read was a series of essays. They tended to blend together into a montage. Life was NOT 'simpler' in those days--but the family in question is a TRUE family--an extended family. This is at least partly because the family is one of recent immigrants. But other immigrants at the time didn't retain the extended family structure. Probably the basis for success of this family is that they did.

Agreenhouse says

A play that reminds us of an earlier era when life was harder, simpler but had the values and solidity that we yearn for today. The mama in the book is similar to my mother -- willing to sacrifice it all for the happiness of her children. A tender look at a Norwegian immigrant family in the 1910s in San Francisco.

Vivian Valvano says

I hadn't read it in far too many years for me to figure out, but one of the LIT group women wants to do it in September as an old-fashioned play, so I got a copy from the library and breezed through it in a sitting. Sweet, gentle, and yes, old-fashioned. Mama is a joy. It's easy to get impatient with the pace, the pain-in-the-ass sisters, the rather plodding language. But it's also good to just go back to a very human tale set in the early 20th century in San Francisco and presented on stage in the middle of WW II. Family love, a daughter who pines to be a writer, immigrants who have become Americans, and a wonderful Mama - one could do worse than spend an hour here.

Carolyn says

Kind of like "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" for Scandis. Entirely different kind of humour though.

Shawn Thrasher says

I don't usually read plays, but I saw half of the movie on TCM a few months ago. I'm glad I read it - it's sweetly old fashioned, very funny in parts, very moving in other parts (I cried at one point, being a big old softie). I admit, I read it aloud, when no one was around - using fake Norwegian accents (although I think they were very convincing fake Norwegian accents).

Kevin says

In general, I was impressed with the order and structure van Druten brings to Kathryn Forbes' vignettes in adapting them for the stage, but was generally disappointed that the original material he adds sacrifices the simplicity and sincerity of the original with canned and cliched conventions.

Lorene says

The nicest part about reading this old play is picturing the beautiful movie that was made from it in the 40s starring Irene Dunne as Mama. Love those gentle old stories!

Alyson says

I read this play because Casey was "Mama" in the Hingham High production.

Vicki says

Was a lovely play. I loved Mama and I loved the whole family. It was sweet and very interesting to see how a family lived at the turn of the 20th century. I have also seen the movie and loved it just as much.

Chrystal says

2.5 stars. The movie was much better.

Gypsysoul_ says

Sweet story, dated, may be okay for community theatre fluff.

Carolyn says

Lovely play! Break a leg Naomi!

Carrie says

This book is so good. Again, from the early 1900's era which I adore. A young writer learning to "write what you know."

Amanda says

If I read this play now, I'd rate it 2 or 3 stars, but I did this play in 11th grade, so it gets the 11th grade rating. Adam Nicholson drew a poster for the show which said, "I Remember Mama (w/ gray hair and no teeth)"

That annoyed the crap out of me.
