

“La la land” a story of how love really is.



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I have to admit I was not excited about “La la land.” I thought “a musical about making it in Hollywood.” I wrote a script once about an actress beating breast cancer and a guy in my writing group at the time tore it apart. “No one cares about actresses.” I realize now I was being a hypocrit. I was letting my own bitterness about the way the industry treated me and women get to me.

The guardian, a paper I read to get a world view, has been having fun butchering "La la Land." It is this quote that has led me to write about it here:

it's the tale of two narcissists who sacrifice love for self-interest.

Narcissism is not love of self. It is love of self that precludes caring about or loving others. It can be a psychological disease. As a woman who has experienced abuse by narcissists, and I also am actor, I feel the need to defend that the act of wanting a career, one your passionate about, is not narcissistic. Honking the horn before dawn may be the act of someone heartless. However there is more than narcissism involved and something significant to think about.

We are told when young to find what we love and do it. Well though we live in an age people are sucked in by social media and You Tube and a Potus who was a reality TV star, there are people who love the craft of acting. There are people who need to do it. As a casting agent I knew once Carolyne Barry once wrote in Backstage West, there are skilled performers and there are skilled actors, and they are not the same. I would say jazz musicians are performers and well the opposite is the actor.

In "La la land" the two lovers were never meant to be lovers forever. Yes there is the expected formula of movies where the girl gets the boy and all are happy. But that was the age of the baby boomers. The generation that thinks they have the right to determine a womans rights to her own body. Today women do not necessarily end up with the first man they sleep with. Though women need to ensure they are protected and smart, not being a virgin does not preclude a woman from finding love or the right person. The reality of 2017 is people break up and it is not the end of the world. But having to give up work you love for work you hate at forty hours a week is a nightmare. I realized that at a young age when my parents took out how much they hated their jobs on me as if it was my fault. I knew I needed passion for what i was doing or I would never be happy with the person in my bed. The pay and fame is not what drives me. A sense I am home and in my element pushes me to stay even when some twitter trolls and narcissist stalkers on line try to reach out to me to bully me or persuade me to be interested.

I am an X generation girl. The Generation forgotten about. Stalked by baby bommers too old for me who think I listen to Woodstock. I do. But my Woodstock of choice was "Live Aide." I grew up seeing the horrors of AIDs. Yet also seeing high divorce rates.

"La la land" is a realistic musical about two people whose paths cross. They helped each other grow and then moved on. Both achieved their goals. It was not the end of love, family or friendships for either player. I wish I had been allowed experiences like that. Instead I feel as if dating someone in America is still archaic and possessive. I go out with someone marriage is inevitable. I have had to fight to get out of relationships that were not right for me. As an actor I am going to add I could never date a performer. The audience is not why I do my work. That is signifigant to this movie. One character needs an audience to be alive in his art. The other tries to get an audience. Fails but is saved by one casting agent who sees her work. That is what many do not get about Hollywood. The difference between making it as an actor amd performer is performers need numbers, while an actor just needs one casting agent and production at a time to give him or her a chance.

"La la Land" is not my favorite film of 2017. However it is a film I intend to point to when ever someone tells me I need to be in a relationship. No. I need to find that one person to give me the break I need to grow. I also need to make my own stuff because as long as I produce it myself SAG AFTRA can not say I am ficore. If I am meant for love. I'll find it, when I am suposed to, on my own. But I have to have a career that helps me to love me and feel whole too. I have to be with someone who walks beside me, understands me, accepts me, and lets me reach my goals. I have to admit here that my generation and the millenials have student debt. We have to push for what we love to do. Trying to make us live for the pay checks and pushing us into relationships with people we can not connect with simply for an archaic first loves must last rule, is why divorce happens. I am also living with a disability, an autoimmune disease. That is more stressful than simply being alone. Trying to make anyone be with people because it is financially easier is not the answer. I know, having been assaulted, if I can not feel I can buy my own meal and not owe my dates anything I will feel safer, than owing them because they paid for everything. I need communication with someone who agrees with my view and respects my individuality. I like me. I am changeable. But experience does that, not a need to fit with someone else.

Love is possible. Love of self is necessary and should be acceptable.

