

Note that this What To Expect contains spoilers.

Blue

By Thomas Weatherall
Directed by Deborah Brown

Recommended for ages 16+/Year 11+

The production runs for approximately 80 minutes, without an interval.

This production contains the use of coarse language, references to suicide, a detailed depiction of death, theatrical haze and use of herbal cigarettes.

The script covers the titular character Mark's life from his teenage to his adult years, primarily examining his experiences with death, depression, grief and love.

Coarse Language:

Throughout the play, Mark repeatedly uses variations of the word 'fuck' e.g. 'fucking', 'fucked', 'fuck'. It is often used by the character as a means of emphasising a painful point, reflective of the language of modern millennials. There is also a scene with use of the word 'cunt' twice when Mark is speaking about his father abruptly leaving his family after the death of his son/Mark's brother.

Sexual Content:

When talking about the progression of romantic relationships, Mark talks casually about how they start with 'uncomfortable handjobs on the beach', then 'making love for the first time', and then talks about how long term couples 'fuck more'. He also describes how he and his roommate turned girlfriend Effy after a night of bonding 'fucked on the couch and lay together till late in the morning, wrapped in each others arms.'

There is also some partial nudity in that the actor playing Mark strips down to his underwear at one point in the play.

Adult Themes:

Traumatic death:

Mark's character vividly describes the drowning of his brother John, explaining in rather methodical terms what happens to someone physically when they drown before proceeding to explain the aftermath of this. Mark also briefly details his presence at the moment his mother died from cancer and how he wished he had been anywhere but there.

Cancer:

Mark's mother is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer towards the end of the play, discovering it is aggressive and incurable. Majority of the end of the play revolves around Mark's mother succumbing to her illness and describes the impact the cancer has on her over time.

Depression:

Mark's character speaks at length about his experiences with depression from therapy to medication and alludes to his mother also suffering from the mental illness.

Suicide:

Mark discusses considering and attempting to take his own life at a couple of points throughout the play. His suicide attempt after the death of his brother and the aftermath of this attempt is given significant detail in the script.

Drug Abuse:

There is reference to the death of a minor character who was 'a junkie'. Mark's brother John is also described to come home 'absolutely stoned' in one scene. Further, Mark's character speaks of taking a cocktail of prescription drugs as part of his suicide attempt.

Alcohol:

Mark's character speaks of drinking 'an obscene amount of alcohol' as part of his suicide attempt. He also makes reference to drinking a bottle of wine with Effy, and going out for drinks with Effy and her friends to the point he is inebriated and yells at Effy in an aggressive manner.

Smoking:

Mark's character makes reference to and engages in smoking of cigarettes throughout the play.

Emotional Moments:

Aforementioned moments such as John's death, Mum's death and Mark's suicide attempt are emotionally impactful scenes in the play. Further, there is a scene where Mark and his mum have gone to the beach and Mark's mum is so overwhelmed with emotion from being back where John died and discovering she has a terminal illness that day that she 'cannot move' from where she is sitting in the shallows of the sea. Mark describes her emotional state and how suspects this is her depression physically manifesting from what he had seen while in hospital himself, and he sits with her for hours until she is able to move again. Another potentially emotional moment for viewers is when Mark's father is unable to attend his mother's funeral and leaves a bouquet and a note for Mark about his love for them even though he left.