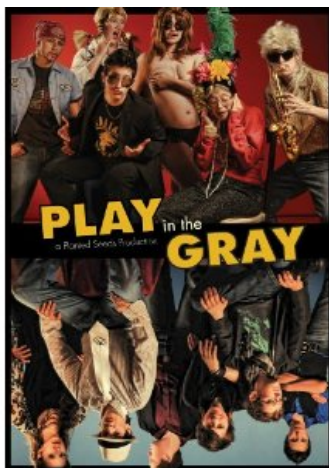


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"PLAY IN THE GRAY"— Identity, Sexuality, Love and Performance Art

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"Play in the Gray"

Identity, Sexuality, Love and Performance Art

Amos Lassen

"Play in the Gray" is a documentary that looks at the work and the personal lives of Boston drag theater group, "All the Kings Men". It is a penetrating and raw film that takes us into the theater troupe and we watch them on stage as they perform as old ladies but on closer inspection we realize that they seem to be women dressed as men and/or men dressed as women. What they do on stage is question themselves and the rest of the world. They work hard at their craft and travel and really struggle to be taken seriously. The show is fascinating as are the actors, Katie, Maria, Julee, Karen, Jill and Leighsa. They also struggle with themselves as they try to discover just who they are, who they want to be and who they are afraid of being. We go with them to visit their hometowns where they have difficult meetings with their families. We see them go to work at their day jobs, we watch how they deal with relationships and we hear their very personal stories.

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They take on the idea of what it means to be a man or to be a woman and we listen to what they have to say where there is no easy answer.

The movie dismantles the gender binary that is such a part of how we live but there is something else here that is very sincere and deeply intimate which we see when we look at human experience. We see the trials and tribulations of loving and being loved as well as the bitterness of disappointment as people strive to be accepted.

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