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Its great.Brent Barbano, Cofounder & Cinematographer"StudioBinder increases efficiency, and it makes pre-production that much quicker for our team."Alex Lawrence, Creative Director"You only have a certain amount of time to do everything, and having a tool like StudioBinder is super helpful."Matt Komo, Filmmaker / Photographer"StudioBinder has been a life saver at Blizzard. It's a clear, secure way to get all the information needed out to our cast and crew. And if you have any questions, the customer service is on point.""The call sheet solution saves our team a lot of time. We had issues with freelancers using different operating systems with our old templates. This makes everything easy for the crew."Amy Skerkoski , Production Lead"StudioBinder is an invaluable tool for our production workflow. The sleek design and smart features like call sheet tracking bring organization, efficiency, and automation to our shoots, and greatly increases productivity."Trevor Fernando, Producer"The call sheet confirmation emails and the ability to track who viewed and confirmed them makes life so much easier."Caisa Airmet, Digital Communications Director"When youre producing film and photography projects, time is one of your most valuable resources. We love StudioBinder because of the amount of time it saves."Richard Beardsley, Producer 1985 American drama playFencesWritten byAugust WilsonCharactersTroy MaxsonRose MaxsonCory MaxsonJim BonoGabriel MaxsonLyons MaxsonRaynell MaxsonDate premiered1985Place premieredEugene O'Neill Theater CenterWaterford, ConnecticutOriginal languageEnglishSeriesThe Pittsburgh CycleSubjectA Negro baseball league player is now a garbageman; his bitterness affects his loved onesGenreDrama, FictionSetting1957, in a backyard of a house in Pittsburgh, PennsylvaniaFences is a 1985 play by the American playwright August Wilson. Set in the 1950s, it is the sixth in Wilson's ten-part "Pittsburgh Cycle". Like all of the "Pittsburgh" plays, Fences explores the evolving African-American experience and examines race relations, among other themes. The play won the 1987 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 1987 Tony Award for Best Play. Fences was first developed at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's 1983 National Playwrights Conference and premiered at the Yale Repertory Theatre in 1985.The focus of Wilson's attention in Fences is Troy, a 53-year-old, African American working-class head of household who struggles with providing for his family. The play takes place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; although never officially named, it makes mention of several key locations in Pittsburgh. In his younger days, Troy was an excellent player in Negro league baseball and continued practicing baseball while serving time in prison for a murder he had committed during a robbery. Because the color barrier had not yet been broken in Major League Baseball, Troy was unable to get into the MLB to make good money or to save for the future. He now lives a menial, though respectable, blue-collar life of trash collecting; later in the play, he remarkably crosses the race barrier and becomes the first black truck driver in Pittsburgh instead of just a barrel lifter.Troy lives with his wife, Rose, and their teenage son, Cory. He has a younger brother, Gabe, a World War II veteran whose war injury to his head has caused him noticeable psychological damage. Gabe had received $5,000 from the government, and Troy took control of this money to purchase a home for his family, including a room for Gabe. A short time before the play's opening, Gabriel has rented a room elsewhere, but still in the neighborhood. Lyons is Troy's older son from a previous marriage, and lives outside the home. Bono is Troy's best friend and co-worker.The play begins on payday, with Troy and Bono drinking and talking. Troy's character is revealed through his speech about how he went up to their boss, Mr. Rand, and asked why African-American men are not allowed to drive garbage trucks; Rose and Lyons join in the conversation. Lyons, a musician, has come to borrow money from Troy, confident that he will receive it, and promises to pay him back because his girlfriend Bonnie just got a job. Troy, who is a rigid believer in hard work and responsibility, belittles his son because he refuses to find a real job, as Troy did, rather than pursuing his dream of becoming a musician.Cory tells Troy and Rose about an opportunity for a college football scholarship. Troy tells Cory he will not let his son play football for fear of racial discrimination, as Troy believes he experienced when he wanted a career in the major leagues. However, it is suggested later on that Troy told Cory's coach that his son is no longer able to play football. When Cory discovers this, he and Troy get into a fight, resulting in Troy sending Cory to his room. Later, it is revealed that Troy's age after serving a prison sentence, not his race, may have been the primary factor. Father and son argue about Troy's actions, but Troy stubbornly does not back down from his argument and kicks Cory out of the house. Later it is revealed that Cory enlisted in the military after this event.Troy admits to Rose that he has been having an affair and that his mistress, Alberta, is pregnant. Later, Alberta dies in childbirth. Troy brings his baby daughter Raynell home, and Rose agrees to raise the girl as her own, saying: "From right now . . . this child got a mother. But you a womanless man." She remains in the family home but the couple are estranged; she refuses to accept Troy back into her life.Seven years later, Troy has died. Cory comes home for a visit from the military where he is a corporal in the Marines. He initially refuses to go to his father's funeral due to long-standing resentment, but he is convinced by his mother to pay his respects to his father the man who, though hard-headed and often poor at demonstrating affection, nevertheless loved his son. The family say their farewells to Troy and offer forgiveness that may not be fully deserved.The brother Gabriel is potentially an allegory to salvation. Other than being actually named Gabriel, like the angel, Gabe wears a trumpet, constantly chases away unseen "hellhounds", and regularly believes himself to be speaking with Saint Peter. At the end, just before Troy's funeral, the family gathers around Gabe in the yard. He blows three times into his trumpet, but no sound comes out. In a moment of trance, Gabe begins to dance and sing. The sun breaks through the clouds while the family looks on. Troy is at last delivered and the rest of the family is too; each seeming to find peace in their relationship with Troy. [citation needed]The fence referred to by the play's title is built over many years and is revealed to be finished only in the final act of the play. It is not obvious as to why Troy wants to build it, but a dramatic monologue in the second act shows how he conceptualizes it as an allegory to keep the Grim Reaper away. The fence is also symbolic of the emotional barrier that Troy erected between himself and his sons, one from each of his adult relationships. Rose also wanted Troy to build the fence as a symbolic means of securing what was her own, keeping what belonged inside in (her family), and making what should stay outside, stay out. [citation needed] It also refers to hitting a home run in baseball, ie "swinging for the fences," attempting the supreme achievement in baseball.Fences was first developed at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's 1983 National Playwrights Conference.It premiered at the Yale Repertory Theatre in 1985, under the direction of Lloyd Richards (who was then Artistic Director of the Yale Rep), with a cast of James Earl Jones (Troy Maxson), Mary Alice (Rose), Ray Aranha (Jim Bono), Russell Costen (Gabriel), and Courtney B. Vance (Cory).[1]The play's first Broadway production was staged at the 46th Street Theatre on March 26, 1987, and closed on June 26, 1988, after 525 performances and 11 previews. Directed by Lloyd Richards, the first Broadway cast remained largely the same as that of the Yale Rep premiere: James Earl Jones (Troy Maxson), Mary Alice (Rose), Ray Aranha (Jim Bono), Frankie Faison (Gabriel), and Courtney B. Vance (Cory). The production won the Tony Awards for Best Play, Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play (James Earl Jones), Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Play (Mary Alice), and Best Direction of a Play (Lloyd Richards), as well as the Drama Desk Awards for Outstanding New Play, Outstanding Actor in a Play (Jones), and Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play (Alice). It also received Tony Award nominations for Best Featured Actor in a Play (Faison and Vance).The first Broadway revival of the play opened at the Cort Theatre on April 26, 2010, with a limited 13-week engagement. Directed by Kenny Leon, the production starred Denzel Washington (Troy Maxson) and Viola Davis (Rose) as the married couple struggling with changing U.S. race relations.[2] The revival was nominated for 10 Tony Awards,[3][4] winning three for Best Revival of a Play, Best Actor in a Play (Denzel Washington), and Best Actress in a Play (Viola Davis).[5]In August, 1990, the play received its premiere production in the UK by Liverpool Playhouse in association with West End producer, Bill Kenwright, in a production by Temba Theatre Company's artistic director, Alby James, starring Hollywood movie star Yaphet Kotto as the protagonist Troy Maxson, and coming star, Adrian Lester, as his son, Cory. Financial Times critic Alastair Macaulay wrote: "Congratulations to the Liverpool Playhouse for presenting this, its British premiere, and for doing it proud...' and 'The director Alby James has done wonders in making his largely English cast absolutely persuasive as these Americans."[6]In 2013, the play was revived again in the UK by Theatre Royal Bath, starring Lenny Henry as Troy Maxson and directed by Paulette Randall. This production transferred to the Duchess Theatre in London's West End for a run that lasted between June and September 2013.[7] Henry's performance attracted wide acclaim. Giles Broadbent from the Wharf said, Lenny Henry is immense.[8] Charles Spencer from The Telegraph said of Henry: "He is, and I dont use the word lightly, magnificent."[9] Jane Shilling, also from the Telegraph said: "What you dont expect is to find Henry entirely unrecognisable in the physically and morally immense character he embodies."[10] Best of Theatre said: "You may love or loathe his comedy but it is impossible to deny Lenny Henry's determination to become a serious actor of some note."[11] Paul Taylor from The Independent said, the performance cements Henry's status as a serious actor.[12] Henry Hitchings from the London Evening Standard said, "He's on superb form".[13] Simon Edge from the Express said, "Henry gives a perfectly controlled performance, combining physical poise with an armoury of carefully judged vocal ticks and facial mannerisms." [14] Of the production as a whole, Hitchings commented that "Fences is dense and unsettling. It's brave to programme such a meaty, daunting piece during the summer months".[13] Camilla Gurlter from A Younger Theatre described it as very heavy and with its nearly three hours of lost hope and broken dreams it can feel long and depressing". [15]Characters1987 Original Broadway cast2010 Broadway revivalTroy MaxsonJames Earl JonesDenzel WashingtonRose MaxsonMary AliceViola DavisJim BonoRay AranhaStephen McKinley HendersonCory MaxsonCourtney B. VanceChris ChalkLyons MaxsonCharles BrownRussell HornsbyGabriel MaxsonFrankie FaisonMykelti WilliamsonRaynell MaxsonKarima MillerEden Duncan-Smith SaCha Stewart-ColemanYearAwardCategoryNominee(s)ResultRef.1987Tony AwardsBest PlayAugust WilsonWon[16]Best Leading Actor in a PlayJames Earl JonesWonBest Featured Actor in a PlayFrankie FaisonNominatedCourtney B. VanceNominatedBest Featured Actress in a PlayMary AliceWonBest Direction of a PlayLloyd RichardsWonDrama Desk AwardsOutstanding PlayAugust WilsonWon[17]Outstanding Actor in a PlayJames Earl JonesWonOutstanding Featured Actor in a PlayFrankie R. FaisonNominatedOutstanding Featured Actress in a PlayMary AliceWonOutstanding Director of a PlayLloyd RichardsNominatedPulitzer PrizeDramaAugust WilsonWon[18]Theatre World AwardsCourtney B. VanceWon[19]YearAwardCategoryNominee(s)ResultRef.2010Tony AwardsBest Revival of a PlayWon[20]Best Leading Actor in a PlayDenzel WashingtonWonBest Leading Actress in a PlayViola DavisWonBest Featured Actor in a PlayStephen McKinley HendersonNominatedBest Direction of a PlayKenny LeonNominatedBest Original ScoreBranford MarsalisNominatedBest Scenic Design in a PlaySanto LoquastoNominatedBest Costume Design in a PlayConstanza RomeroNominatedBest Lighting Design in a PlayBrian MacDevittNominatedBest Sound Design in a PlayAcme Sound PartnersNominatedDrama Desk AwardsOutstanding Revival of a PlayWon[a][21]Outstanding Featured Actor in a PlayChris ChalkNominatedOutstanding Featured Actress in a PlayViola DavisWon[b]Outstanding Music in a PlayBranford MarsalisWonTheatre World AwardsChris ChalkWon[19]Main article: Fences (film)A film adaptation of Fences, directed by Denzel Washington, and starring Washington and Viola Davis reprising their roles from the 2010 Broadway revival, completed production in 2016.[22] The film was released nationally on December 25, 2016, in the U.S. and was released on February 3, 2017, in the UK. The film was chosen by the American Film Institute as one of the top ten films of 2016,[23] and has been nominated for numerous awards, including four Oscar nominations at the 89th Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Actor (Washington), Best Supporting Actress (Davis), and Best Adapted Screenplay, with Davis winning for her performance. It also received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actor for Washington and a Best Supporting Actress win for Davis.[24]^ Tied with A View from the Bridge.^ Tied with Frances de la Tour for The History Boys.^ "Fences at Yale Repertory Theatre 1985". about the artists. 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"Fences Review", Best of Theatre, accessed September 28, 2014.^ Taylor, Paul (June 27, 2013). "Theatre review: Fences Lenny Henry's towering performance further proves his status as a serious actor". The Independent. London.^ a b Hitchings, Henry (June 27, 2013). "Fences, Duchess Theatre theatre review", London Evening Standard, accessed September 28, 2014.^ Edge, Simon (June 28, 2013). "Theatre review: Fences", Express, accessed September 28, 2014.^ Gurlter, Camilla (June 29, 2013). "Review: Fences", A Younger Theatre, accessed June 28, 2014.^ "1987 Tony Awards". Tony Awards. Retrieved October 2, 2023.^ "Nominees and Recipients 1987 Awards". Drama Desk Awards. Retrieved October 2, 2023.^ "August Wilson". Pulitzer Prize. Retrieved October 2, 2023.^ a b "Theatre World Award Recipients". Theatre World Awards. Retrieved October 2, 2023.^ "2010 Tony Awards". Tony Awards. Retrieved October 2, 2023.^ "Nominees and Recipients 2010 Awards". Drama Desk Awards. 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Retrieved June 26, 2008.Wikimedia Commons has media related to Fences (play).Fences at the Internet Broadway DatabaseRetrieved from " by August Wilson is a powerful exploration of African American life in the 1950s. It tells the story of Troy Maxson, a former baseball player turned garbage collector, and his family as they navigate love, duty, and the changing world around them.This post will break down the key elements of the play, helping you understand its themes, characters, and significance. Fences takes place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the 1950s. Troy Maxson, the main character, lives with his wife Rose and their son Cory. Troys older son from a previous relationship, Lyons, and his brother Gabriel, who suffered a head injury in World War II, are also important characters.The play revolves around Troys relationships with his family members and his struggle to come to terms with his past and the changing world. As the story unfolds, we see how Troys actions and decisions impact those around him, particularly his son Cory. Lets take a closer look at the key players in Fences: Troy is the heart of the story. Hes a complex man with a troubled past and a difficult present. Heres what you need to know about Troy:Hes 53 years old and works as a garbage collector.In his youth, Troy was a talented baseball player in the Negro Leagues, but he was too old to play when Major League Baseball began allowing Black players.Troy is proud, stubborn, and often angry about the injustices hes faced in life.He loves his family but struggles to show affection, especially to his sons.Troy is like that uncle at family gatherings who always has a story to tell, but sometimes those stories make people uncomfortable. Hes the kind of person who speaks his mind, even when it might hurt others. Rose is Troys wife and a central figure in the play. Heres what makes Rose special:Shes loving and patient, often acting as the peacekeeper in the family.Rose is devoted to her family and tries to hold everyone together.She has her own dreams and disappointments, which become more apparent as the play progresses.Think of Rose as the glue that holds the Maxson family together. Shes like that friend who always knows the right thing to say to make you feel better. Cory is Troy and Roses teenage son. Hes an important character because his relationship with Troy is a major source of conflict in the play. Heres what you should know about Cory:Hes a talented football player with the potential for a college scholarship.Cory wants his fathers approval but often clashes with Troys strict and sometimes harsh parenting.He represents the younger generation and the changing opportunities for African Americans in the 1950s.Cory is like many teenagers who dream big and want to break free from their parents expectations. Hes caught between respecting his father and following his own path. Lyons: Troys older son from a previous relationship. Hes a musician who often asks Troy for money.Gabriel: Troys brother who suffered a head injury in World War II. He receives a disability payment that Troy used to buy their house.Jim Bono: Troys best friend and co-worker. He serves as a sounding board for Troy and offers a different perspective on events. Now that we know the main characters, lets explore the big ideas or themes that Wilson tackles in the play: One of the main conflicts in Fences is the tension between doing whats expected of you and following your own dreams. We see this play out in several ways:Troy gave up his baseball dreams to support his family, and now he struggles with his son Corys football aspirations.Rose put aside her own desires to be a good wife and mother, but later realizes the cost of this sacrifice.Lyons pursues his passion for music, even if it means financial instability.This theme is something many of us can relate to. Have you ever had to choose between what you want to do and what you feel you should do? Thats the kind of dilemma the characters in Fences face. The play doesnt shy away from addressing the racial injustices of 1950s America. Wilson shows us how these issues affect the characters lives:Troys bitterness about not being able to play Major League Baseball due to racial segregationThe limited job opportunities available to African Americans, as seen in Troys work as a garbage collectorThe way Troy and Bono discuss their experiences of discrimination at workThese elements remind us that Fences isnt just a family drama its also a snapshot of a specific time in American history and the challenges faced by Black Americans. The relationship between fathers and sons is a central theme in Fences:Troys complicated relationship with his own abusive father shapes how he treats his sons.The conflict between Troy and Cory highlights the generational gap and changing expectations.Troys actions towards his sons show how patterns of behavior can be passed down through generations.This theme explores how our relationships with our parents can influence who we become and how we treat our own children. The title Fences isnt just about the physical fence Troy is building around his yard. Its also a metaphor for the emotional barriers we create:Troy builds fences to protect himself from the pain of his past and the uncertainties of the future.The fence can represent the divisions between family members, races, and generations.Rose sees the fence as a way to keep her family close, while for Troy it might be a way to keep the world out.Think about the fences in your own life. What barriers have you built to protect yourself? What fences might be holding you back? August Wilson uses several symbols throughout the play to deepen its meaning. Lets look at a few: Weve talked about the metaphorical meaning of fences, but the actual fence Troy is building is also important:It represents Troys attempt to control his environment and keep out the things he fears.The slow progress of building the fence mirrors the slow reveal of Troys character throughout the play.Different characters view the fence differently, showing their various perspectives on life and family. Baseball is more than just a sport in Fences:For Troy, it represents his past glory and current bitterness.The baseball bat Troy uses as a weapon symbolizes how his past continues to impact his present.Baseball terms are often used as metaphors in Troys speech, showing how deeply the sport has influenced his worldview. Troys brother Gabriel believes he has a trumpet to open the gates of heaven:This symbolizes the characters hopes for redemption and a better afterlife.The trumpet also represents the lingering effects of war on soldiers and their families.Gabriels belief in his trumpet shows the power of faith and imagination in facing lifes challenges. Lets break down some of the most important moments in the play: Early in the play, Troy confronts his boss about why Black workers arent allowed to drive the garbage trucks. This scene is crucial because:It shows Troys courage and determination to fight injustice.It sets up the idea that times are changing, and opportunities for Black Americans are slowly expanding.The scene gives us insight into Troys character and his experiences with racism. The conflict between Troy and Cory over Corys football ambitions is a turning point in the play:It highlights the generational divide between father and son.Troys refusal to let Cory play football shows how his own past disappointments affect his parenting.This argument sets the stage for the eventual breakdown of their relationship. When Troy admits to Rose that hes been unfaithful and has fathered a child with another woman, its a pivotal moment:It shatters the image of Troy as a dutiful, if difficult, husband.Roses reaction shows her strength and the depth of her love for her family.This confession leads to a major shift in the family dynamic and in Roses character. The plays ending, which takes place after Troys death, is powerful and meaningful:It shows how Troys actions continue to impact his family even after hes gone.The scene offers a chance for reconciliation and understanding between the characters.Gabriels attempt to open the gates of heaven for Troy provides a bittersweet and symbolic conclusion to the story. To fully appreciate Fences, its important to understand the time in which its set. Heres some historical context: The play takes place in the 1950s, a time of significant change in America:The Civil Rights Movement was gaining momentum, but racial segregation and discrimination were still widespread.The economy was booming for many Americans, but opportunities for Black Americans were still limited.Traditional family roles were starting to be questioned, but many households still followed a more conservative model. Baseball plays a big role in Troys backstory:The Negro Leagues, where Troy played, were professional baseball leagues for African American players.Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball in 1947, just a few years before the play is set.Troys bitterness about missing his chance at the major leagues reflects the real experiences of many talented Black players of his generation. The aftermath of World War II is felt in the play, particularly through Gabriels character:Many soldiers, like Gabriel, returned from the war with physical and mental injuries.The war led to changes in racial attitudes, as Black soldiers who had fought for their country expected better treatment at home.The post-war economic boom changed the landscape of American cities and created new opportunities, though these were not equally available to all. August Wilsons writing in Fences is distinctive and powerful. Here are some key aspects of his style: Wilsons characters often speak in a lyrical, almost poetic way:Troy, in particular, has long, rhythmic speeches that blend everyday language with poetic expression.This style gives the dialogue a musical quality, reflecting Wilsons love of blues music.The poetic language elevates ordinary conversations, giving them a sense of importance and universality. Wilson authentically captures the way his characters would speak:The dialogue uses the grammar and vocabulary of African American Vernacular English.This choice adds realism and cultural specificity to the play.It also challenges the idea that proper English is the only valid form of expression in literature. Many of the characters, especially Troy, are great storytellers:Troy often relates stories from his past, blending fact and myth.This reflects the importance of oral storytelling in African American culture.These stories within the play add depth to the characters and often carry important themes. Fences has had a lasting impact on American theater and culture: The play won the 1987 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play.Its considered one of August Wilsons greatest works and a classic of American theater.In 2016, Fences was adapted into a film directed by and starring Denzel Washington.The movie brought the play to a wider audience and earned several Academy Award nominations.Fences is part of Wilsons Pittsburgh Cycle, a series of ten plays exploring African American experiences in different decades of the 20th century.The play has become a staple in many school curriculums, introducing students to important themes in American history and literature.It continues to be performed regularly in theaters around the world, speaking to new generations of audiences.Read More on Thesis Proposal Research Methods To wrap up our exploration of Fences, lets address some common questions about the play: A: The title Fences works on multiple levels. On a literal level, it refers to the fence Troy is building around his yard throughout the play. Symbolically, it represents the emotional barriers between characters, the limitations placed on African Americans in 1950s society, and the ways people try to protect themselves from lifes hardships. A: Troy is neither a straightforward hero nor a villain. Hes a complex character with both admirable and flawed qualities. Troy shows courage in standing up against racial discrimination at work, and hes dedicated to providing for his family. However, he also makes choices that hurt those closest to him. This complexity makes Troy a realistic and relatable character, even when we dont agree with his actions. A: Gabriel, Troys brother who was injured in World War II, serves several purposes in the play. He represents the impact of war on individuals and families. His disability payments, which Troy used to buy their house, create a sense of guilt and obligation in Troy. Symbolically, Gabriels belief that he has a trumpet to open the gates of heaven adds a spiritual dimension to the play and offers a possibility of redemption. A: While Fences is primarily a family drama, it consistently addresses racial issues of the 1950s. Troys lost opportunity in baseball due to segregation, the limited job prospects for Black workers, and the changing landscape of opportunities for the younger generation are all explored. The play shows how systemic racism affects individual lives and family dynamics. A: The conflict between Troy and Cory represents several things:The generational gap between parents who grew up under severe racial restrictions and their children who see new opportunitiesThe cycle of troubled father-son relationships and how patterns of behavior are passed downThe tension between protecting ones children and allowing them to pursue their dreams A: Roses decision to raise Raynell after Albertas death is complex. It shows her incredible capacity for love and her commitment to family. It also represents her choice to redirect her love and energy after Troys betrayal. By raising Raynell, Rose finds a way to reclaim her role as a mother and to create something positive out of a painful situation. A: The final scene, set after Troys death, allows for a sense of closure and potential reconciliation. It shows how Troys influence continues beyond his life, both in positive and negative ways. The scene also offers hope for healing and understanding between the remaining characters, particularly Cory and his family. Gabriels attempt to open the gates of heaven for Troy provides a poetic and ambiguous ending, leaving the audience to reflect on themes of judgment, forgiveness, and the legacy we leave behind.By exploring these questions, we can see how Fences continues to provoke thought and discussion long after the curtain falls. Its complex characters, rich themes, and powerful dialogue make it a work that resonates with audiences and readers, inviting us to examine our own lives, relationships, and the fences we build or break down. Table of Contents What is Fences about? This Pulitzer Prize-winning play explores the life and struggles of Troy Maxson, a black garbageman in 1957 Pittsburgh. He grapples with disillusionment and the pressures of being a father and husband as he comes to terms with his past and the changing world around him.Book DetailsTitle: FencesAuthor: August WilsonPublish Date: June 1, 1986Pages: 101Genre: Plays, Drama, ClassicsRatings: 3.88 (27,370 ratings)Reviews: 1,945 reviewsSynopsis of FencesOverview of FencesFences is an impactful play by August Wilson. Set in 1957, it focuses on Troy Maxson, a proud African-American man. He works as a garbage collector in Pittsburgh, balancing dreams and crushing realities. This piece belongs to his esteemed Pittsburgh Cycle, which documents African-American life throughout the 20th century. Wilsons writing captures both the cultural struggles and personal narratives of black families. The story won multiple accolades, including the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The play features an unforgettable cast of characters, exploring themes such as family dynamics, racism, and the pursuit of dreams. Denzel Washingtons film adaptation brings this powerful narrative to a broader audience, further enhancing its reputation. Troy Maxson: The ProtagonistTroy Maxson is portrayed as a strong, flawed man. He navigates a complex web of relationships, steadily shaped by his traumatic past. As a former baseball player, he has often faced setbacks due to racial barriers. He is haunted by lost opportunities, which fuels his bitterness and anger. Troys personality is both protective and controlling, especially towards his family. His wife, Rose, remains devoted yet increasingly frustrated with their life together. Rose embodies the struggles faced by many women during this period, seeking balance between her husbands dominating presence and her own ambitions. Their son, Cory, yearns for a football scholarship but faces Troys disapproval. Troys insecurities bleed into their relationships, manifesting in conflicts and misunderstandings that create emotional rifts. Thematic Depth and SymbolismFences deeply explores the themes of responsibility and oppression. Troy builds literal and metaphorical fences in his life. These fences serve to isolate his family while also protecting them from emotional harm. Through these defenses, Troy attempts to shield his loved ones from the harsh realities of racism and disappointment. The title itself highlights the dual purpose of barriers. Fences can keep people out or keep loved ones in. This duality represents the struggles within families, especially within Troys household. The characters wrestle with their desires versus societal expectations, leading to poignant moments of self-realization and conflict. Another major theme is the clash between generations. Troys past experiences shape his worldview. He has absorbed prejudice, fearing that his children will face the same oppression. Such fears lead him to stifle Corys aspirations, believing it will spare him pain. The play questions whether Troy, in trying to protect his son, is hindering his growth instead. The Relationships that Define UsThe play meticulously examines key relationships, from Troy and Rose to Troy and his sons. Each interaction serves as a window into their struggles and aspirations. Troys friendship with Bono represents loyalty and shared hardship. Bono encourages Troy to recognize his flaws, creating a tension that fosters growth for both men. Troys relationship with his sons illustrates the generational divide. Cory seeks approval, while Troy remains stuck in his failures. Their arguments highlight the clash between ambition and realistic expectations. Meanwhile, Troys estranged son, Lyons, struggles with his own identity as a musician drawn back into Troys life only for financial help. Gabriel, Troys disabled brother, symbolizes innocence and vulnerability. He provides comic relief but also embodies the impact of war on families. His moments of clarity shine a light on Troys internal struggles, offering moments of poignant reflection amidst the turmoil. Conclusions and LegacyFences is more than a play; its a poignant exploration of a familys dynamics against societal pressures. August Wilsons writing masterfully presents complex characters driven by their histories and aspirations. The characters reflect real life, each wrestling with their own identities and inner conflicts. Through Troys journey, the audience witnesses the painful consequences of unresolved grief and high expectations. The play encourages powerful discussions about race, responsibility, and love. It resonates deeply with audiences, remaining relevant decades after its initial release. The powerful adaptation by Denzel Washington solidifies its legacy. Fences continues to spark conversations about the African-American experience, capturing the essence of hope and despair. Whether read or watched, Fences remains a compelling narrative that challenges and enlightens the audience. From here you can jump to the Spoilers section right away.Below you can search for another book summary: Alternative Book CoverComing soon QuotesDont you think I ever wanted other things? Dont you think I had dreams and hopes? What about my life? What about me. Dont you think it ever crossed my mind to want to know other men? That I wanted to lay up somewhere and forget about my responsibilities? That I wanted someone to make me laugh so I could feel good? You not the only one whos got wants and needs. But I held on to you, Troy. I took all my feelings, my wants and needs, my dreamsand I buried them inside you. I planted myself inside you and waited to bloom. And it didnt take me no eighteen years to find out the soil was hard and rocky and it wasnt never gonna bloom.August Wilson, FencesWhen the sins of our fathers visit usWe do not have to play host.We can banish them with forgivenessAs God, in his His Largeness and Laws.August Wilson, FencesWhen your daddy walked through the house he was so big he filled it up. That was my first mistake. Not to make him leave room for me.August Wilson, FencesYou want to give Fences a try? Here you go!CharactersTroy Maxson: A hard-working, bitter man, who struggles with lost opportunities in life and grapples with fatherhood.Rose Maxson: Troys devoted wife who tries to support her husband while nurturing her sons dreams.Cory Maxson: Troy and Roses ambitious son, eager to carve out his own path in life.Gabriel Maxson: Troys brother, a war veteran whose mental challenges symbolize the burdens of war and family.Bono: Troys best friend, who provides companionship and reflects Troys internal conflicts.Lyon Maxson: Troys son from a previous marriage, struggling to find his own way in life.HighlightsKey Takeaways:The Weight of Responsibility: The play strongly emphasizes the burden of familial and societal expectations.Impact of Racism: It depicts the harsh realities of being a black man in the 1950s America.Complex Relationships: The dynamic between Troy and Rose reveals deep emotional strife within the family.Symbolism of the Fence: The fence represents both protection and isolation in Troys life.The Influence of the Past: Troys past choices continue to haunt him, affecting his family.Spoilers Spoiler Alert! If you want to read the book, dont click Show more and spoil your experience. Here is a link for you to get the book.Troys Infidelity: Troy betrays Rose, deeply shattering their marriage and causing immense pain.Corys Rebellion: Cory eventually stands up to Troy, illustrating the generational gap and desire for independence.Tragic End: After a life of struggles, Troy faces his own mortality, leading to poignant reflections on his legacy.Gabriels Revelation: Gabriels final actions symbolize the merging of suffering and hope, elevating the plays emotional depth.Father-Son Conflict: The tragic outcome of Troys expectations and dominance leads to a fractured relationship with Cory.Let us know what you think about this book and the summary in the comment section at the end of the page. FAQs about FencesThe central themes are responsibility, family tensions, and the impact of race.Key characters include Troy, Rose, Cory, Gabriel, Bono, and Lyon.The story is set in 1957, amidst significant societal changes in America.Yes, it was adapted into a film in 2016, starring Denzel Washington.It won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play.ReviewsFor a deeper exploration of Fences and to see what others say about this powerful drama, visit our full reviews. Are you looking for a nice read that perfectly fits your current mood? Here is a free book suggestion tool. It gives you suggestions based on your taste. Also a likelihood rating for each recommended book. Would you like to find the book you will love later or now? August Wilson was a prominent American playwright who received multiple accolades for his work. He is best known for the Pittsburgh Cycle, a series of ten plays depicting African American life throughout the 20th century. Are you looking for a nice read that perfectly fits your current mood? Here is a free book suggestion tool. It gives you suggestions based on your taste. Also a likelihood rating for each recommended book. Would you like to find the book you will love later or now?ConclusionWe hope you found this synopsis of Fences enlightening. Summaries provide just a glimpse into the deeper emotional currents of the story. If you enjoyed this overview, the full play reveals even more layers of complexity and powerful storytelling. Ready to explore further? Here is the link to buy Fences.DISCLAIMER: This book summary is meant as a summary and an analysis and does not replace the original work. If you are the original author of any book on our website and wish to have it removed, please contact us. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. 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August Wilsons play Fences premiered in 1985 at the Yale Repertory Theatre and was published the following year. It opened on Broadway in 1987 with James Earl Jones in the role of Troy. It was the third play to premiere of Wilsons Century Cycle, although it is the sixth play chronologically. The Century Cycle, also known as the Pittsburgh Cycle, consists of