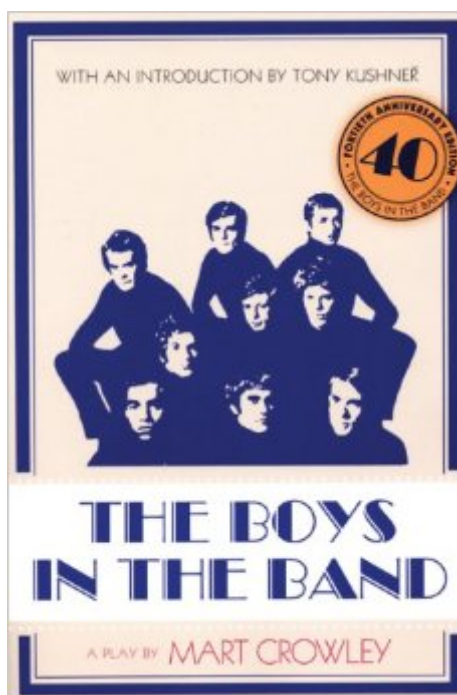


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The Boys In The Band: 40th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

“Boys can still hold its own . . . [Mart] Crowley’s point is about how the humor is shaped and defined by the pain.” The New York Times The Boys in the Band was the first commercially successful play to reveal gay life to mainstream America. Alyson is proud to release a special fortieth anniversary edition of the play, which includes an original preface by acclaimed writer Tony Kushner (Angels in America), along with previously unpublished photographs of Mart Crowley and the cast of the play/film. Mart Crowley’s other plays include the autobiographical A Breeze from the Gulf (1973) and The Men from the Boys (2002).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a clever play that enjoyed enormous success some forty years ago, ten years before AIDS and before gay people dared to hope that they would ever be accepted. It presents us with a slice of gay male life as it was back then. It deals with the spiritual aridity of gay life among a group of gay men meeting to celebrate the birthday of one of them, who is presented with a young hustler as a gift. None of these men are getting anywhere. Although the obligatory suicide or murder is missing from this play, it still presents a damning view of homosexuality that must have pleased the moralists. There is no mention of the budding gay rights movement, which got off the ground between the play and the movie, but one can be sure that these losers would never have joined the movement anyway. It reminds me of a gay party I attended in 1976. Everybody there was drunk except me. They were staggering around talking nonsense about how respectable they had become. They were just as demoralized as the guys in the play.

One of my favorite plays...It may be dated and it may be camp, but it's classic and holds its own. Well developed characters that you can love or hate...strong language...gay humor and a little bit of truth here and there. A snapshot of another time...

Read with my book group. Fascinating to read it as a historical period piece. Very well written and easily leads to a discussion as to how things are different (or the same). Still controversial but an important read.

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