

“Love, Simon”

By Helen Lutz

It’s a real shame that such a divide exists within our country between liberals and conservatives. Before the term ‘political correctness’ became widely popular in the 1990’s, conservatives usually tried to downplay discriminatory policies directed at minority groups while the liberal left would use it as a banner to promote its flavor of the day. The silent majority, coined by Richard Nixon in 1969, was a popular phrase. In years since it appears the silent majority of people are willing to sit idly by watching as political correctness overpowers our country. The personal preferences of minority groups have been busy putting a stop to prayer in our schools, dictating what can be preached from the pulpit, stipulating proper etiquette in our workplaces, removing historical monuments (sometimes in the dark of the night), and even controlling the use of our public restrooms. The delicate sensitivities of the few forcing the majority to accept their preferences as perfectly normal entitlements.



Which brings me to the topic of a new movie currently appearing in theaters, “Love, Simon.” As the film opens we meet Simon played by Nick Robinson with his narration of how he is just like the rest of us. He is the eldest son of a perfect family, with perfect parents and a perfect younger sister who loves cooking for him, living in the perfect house in the perfect neighborhood, attending a perfect high school with perfect friends who admittedly like to drink a few too many iced coffees. Life is good, right? Well not exactly for Simon, he is gay and not at all ready to come out of the closet.

Simon’s school has its own internal facebook-type information site – a great place for bullying, but that’s another story – where he meets a kindred soul, code name Blue. Simon assumes the persona of Jacques while talking with Blue on-line, they have so many questions and their anonymity lets them openly share their feelings and fears. A library computer, accidentally left open by Simon, unveils his secret to another student and his life begins to unravel; blackmail can be treacherous when trying to keep secrets.

Director Greg Berlanti takes the subject matter, although obviously political, and interjects humor throughout. One can’t help but love Principal Worth (Tony Hale) as he walks the crowded halls of the high school snatching cell phones and Natasha Rothwell as Ms. Albright steals every scene she’s in. Berlanti even takes us through the reverse scenario of each of Simon’s friends encounter with their parents as they tell them that yes – they are heterosexual. It’s funny to be sure. “Love, Simon” is a light-hearted approach to a young man finding himself and his struggle to share who he is with his family, friends and the world while hoping to find love.

“Love, Simon” is also Hollywood’s continued attempt to convince the ‘silent majority’ that alternative life styles are normal and totally acceptable. Rarely can we attend a film or watch a television show when the topic is not shoved at us. The flip side of the coin is that we, the ‘silent majority’, might decide when we’ve had enough and stop watching NFL football, attending movies about homosexuality, and begin to speak our minds with our actions and pocketbooks (no professional or Russian community organizers need apply). On a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give ... “Love Simon” TWO HARTS. It’s funny, but way too politically correct.