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Light Shining In Buckinghamshire



Synopsis

"Even more than an immediately impressive exercise in historical drama, the play deals in the rawness of life during the Civil War and the crazy mixture of ideals and half truths which led a group of free-loving pantheistic communists to set their standard against the standard of false revolution of Cromwell's parliamentarians." -Steve Grant "The play has an austere eloquence that precisely matches its subject." -The Guardian "A play that commands one's attention and that can lead to enlightenment." -Mel Gussow, New York Times An early masterwork by one of the world's leading playwrights, *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* is an impressive exercise in historical drama, dealing with the rawness of life during England's Civil War. It was first staged in 1976 at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs and revived at the National Theatre in 1996. Caryl Churchill has written for the stage, television and radio. A renowned and prolific playwright, her plays include *Cloud Nine*, *Top Girls*, *Far Away*, *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You?*, *Bliss*, *Love and Information*, *Mad Forest* and *A Number*. In 2002, she received the Obie Lifetime Achievement Award and 2010, she was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame.

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Customer Reviews

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matches its subject." - The Guardian "Remarkable" - Michael Billington, The Guardian "A play that commands one's attention and that can lead to enlightenment." - Mel Gussow, New York Times "Even more than an immediately impressive exercise in historical drama, the play deals in the rawness of life during the Civil War and the crazy mixture of ideals and half truths which led a group of free-loving pantheistic communists to set their standard against the standard of false revolution of Cromwell's parliamentarians." - Steve Grant "The play has an austere eloquence that precisely matches its subject." - The Guardian "Remarkable" - Michael Billington, The Guardian "A play that commands one's attention and that can lead to enlightenment." - Mel Gussow, New York Times

CARYL CHURCHILL's plays include "Cloud Nine" (revived in 2007 to huge acclaim at the Almeida, London), "Top Girls", "Serious Money", "The Skriker", "Blue Heart", "Far Away" and "A Number". Most are published by NHB. Caryl Churchill (1938-) is probably the most respected woman dramatist in the English-speaking world. She is the author of some twenty plays including Light Shining in Buckinghamshire, Cloud Nine, Top Girls, Serious Money, The Skriker, Blue Heart, Far Away and A Number, seen and admired all over the world.

One of Churchill's collaboratively generated plays, experimental but moving in reading and production. Shows the betrayal of the radically progressive (dare I say LIBERAL) sects of English Protestantism by Cromwell's military dictatorship in the Interregnum. Historically evocative and, sadly, instructive for students of British history and political history as to how revolutionary movements may be co-opted and perverted, abandoning and erasing those who fueled them.

Under the cover of 'Light Shining in Buckinghamshire' Caryl Churchill takes the reader through the experience of revolution, encouraging thought and moral criticism from the audience. Her characters are entertaining and each introduces the themes of personal freedom in autocratic and dictatorial societies well. This historically based play does not introduce the audience to the English Civil but to the situation of those that live through and fight for any form of revolution, becoming relevant to modern society as well. Caryl Churchill removes the third wall of the traditional play encouraging the audience not only to view, but also to participate and act within the play itself. Not only thoroughly entertaining but almost haunting in its ability to make you think and analyse the ideas introduced for yourself.

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