

From the Raising of Lazarus to King Lear: Studies in Performance and Early Modern Drama

Product Description

This book investigates the development of acting, theatrical performance, and staging from the Reformation to the Restoration. Andrew Gurr explores how performance practices shaped the plays of Shakespeare, Middleton, and other early modern dramatists.

About the Author



Female Mourning and Tragedy in Medieval and Renaissance English Drama: From the Raising of Lazarus to King Lear (Studies in Performance and Early Modern Drama) by Katharine Goodland

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 264 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Andrew Gurr is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Reading. He is the author of numerous books on Shakespeare and early modern

drama, including *The Shakespearean Stage 1574-1642* and *Playgoing in Shakespeare's London*.

Reviews

"Gurr's book is a major contribution to our understanding of early modern drama and performance. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of theatre." - *The Times Literary Supplement*

"Gurr writes with clarity and authority, and his book is full of fascinating insights. This is an essential book for anyone who wants to understand early modern drama." - *The Guardian*

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Excerpt

"The raising of Lazarus was one of the most popular subjects for dramatic representation in the Middle Ages. It was a story that had a powerful emotional appeal, and it offered playwrights a chance to explore the themes of death, resurrection, and redemption.

The earliest known play about Lazarus was written in the early fourteenth century. This play, known as *The Lazarus Play*, was a simple morality play that told the story of Lazarus's death and resurrection. The play was performed by a group of actors who traveled from town to town, and it was a popular form of entertainment for the common people.

Over time, the Lazarus play evolved into a more sophisticated form of drama. In the early sixteenth century, a new version of the play was written by the playwright John Bale. Bale's play, known as *The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Lazarus*, was a more complex and didactic work than the earlier morality plays. It featured a cast of allegorical characters, and it explored the themes of the Reformation.

Bale's play was performed at a time when England was undergoing a period of religious upheaval. The Reformation had led to a split between the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church, and there was much debate about the nature of faith and salvation. Bale's play was intended to promote the Protestant cause, and it used the story of Lazarus to argue that salvation was only possible through faith in Jesus Christ.

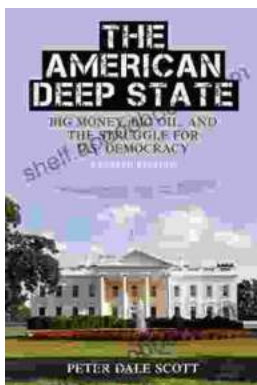
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