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Eugene O'Neill : Complete Plays 1932-1943 (Library Of America)



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Customer Reviews

O'Neill specialist Bogard gathers together for the first time the full canon of O'Neill's drama 50 plays plus his only short story, "Tomorrow." The texts, arranged chronologically by the year they were written, incorporate O'Neill's final revisions and contain notes and a chronology of his life. No serious literature collection is complete without the full set of O'Neill. Michael Rogers, "Library Journal" Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953) is one of the most significant forces in the history of American theater. With no uniquely American tradition to guide him, O'Neill introduced various dramatic techniques, which subsequently became staples of the U.S. theater. By 1914 he had written twelve one-act and two long plays. Of this early work, only *Thirst* and *Other One-act plays* (1914) was originally published. From this point on, O'Neill's work falls roughly into three phases: the early plays, written

from 1914 to 1921 (*The Long Voyage Home*, *The Moon of the Caribbees*, *Beyond the Horizon*, *Anna Christie*); a variety of full-length plays for Broadway (*Desire Under the Elms*; *Great God Brown*; *Ah, Wilderness!*); and the last, great plays, written between 1938 and his death (*The Iceman Cometh*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*). Eugene O'Neill is a four-time Pulitzer Prize winner, and he was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1936.

I bought this book to study how the author crafted and used dialogue and there, I was not disappointed. However, several of the plays which I was reading for the first time, simply were not that interesting nor entertaining. Perhaps they were more intriguing when presented live on stage, when characters brought scenes to life and evoked moods of everyday hope tinged with despair and all the bits and pieces that forged familial and romantic relationships. Of course, these are only my observations and many no doubt can and will, disagree with me, but O'Neill to me is an acquired taste that I simply did not acquire and will leave to others. R.R. Harris, author of *Double Take*, *An Island Travel Mystery of Lively Romance and Deadly Betrayal*, available on .

O'Neill's brilliance and his place as America's foremost playwright locks into place, if it hadn't already, with this third volume of plays from the last decade of his writing life. Three of the plays presented here (*The Iceman Cometh*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*) are utter masterpieces, works of art so powerful that they rank among the great accomplishments in English letters. Two other plays (*Ah, Wilderness!* and *A Touch of the Poet*) are great plays. A third (*More Stately Mansions*) is the one great failure of O'Neill's career, I believe, an endless epic back-and-forth set of soulful arguments that could have been (and sometimes was) better played in an infinitely shorter play. But it's my belief that no American playwright has ever come within miles of capturing O'Neill's ability to see the pain at the heart of human beings and to encapsulate so perfectly the pity which the lost heart yearns for and requires.

This is my favorite collection of Eugene O'Neill's plays. Simply put you get *The Iceman Cometh*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, and so much more. These plays are collected from the time he disowned his daughter Oona due to the fact she married 54 year old Charlie Chaplin, up to Eugene's death. *Iceman Cometh* is splendid play that teaches us about dreams and hopes for tomorrow while *Long Day's Journey Into Night* takes us into the frayed relationships of a family. One could say it is an autobiography of Eugene due to the major similarities between the two.

I never read his Works. Being Norwegian. :) I first heard about him from VHS I have The Iceman Cometh which is great work. Now, the book is small, but contains good introduction and the Plays are put it nicely.. A great buy! I recommend it highly!

O'Neill is beyond words.

Excellent

Beautiful and complete

good reading

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