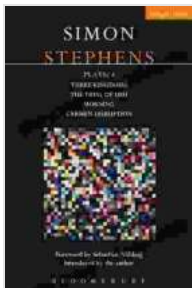


Three Kingdoms, The Trial of Ubu, Morning Carmen, Disruption: Contemporary Perspectives on the Intersection of Politics, Performance, and Protest

Theatrical performances have always been a powerful means of expressing political ideas and igniting social change. From the ancient Greek tragedies to the modern-day experimental theater, plays have served as platforms for addressing pressing issues, challenging authority, and provoking thought.



Stephens Plays: 4: Three Kingdoms; The Trial of Ubu; Morning; Carmen Disruption (Contemporary Dramatists) by Simon Stephens

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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In recent years, a number of contemporary theater productions have explored the intersection of politics, performance, and protest in innovative and thought-provoking ways. These productions have sparked controversy,

ignited debate, and pushed the boundaries of what is considered "acceptable" in the world of theater.

This article will delve into three such productions: *Three Kingdoms*, *The Trial of Ubu*, and *Morning Carmen*. These plays offer unique perspectives on contemporary political issues, using different forms of theatrical expression to challenge the status quo and provoke audiences to think critically about the world around them.

***Three Kingdoms*: Epic Theater Meets Chinese History**

Cao Cao, Liu Bei, and Sun Quan are three of the most famous figures in Chinese history. Their epic struggle for power during the Three Kingdoms period has been the subject of countless books, movies, and television shows. However, in its 2018 production of *Three Kingdoms*, the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre took a unique approach to this classic tale.

Instead of focusing on the military battles and political machinations of the Three Kingdoms period, the Repertory Theatre's production explored the human cost of war and the ways in which power corrupts. The play used a combination of traditional Chinese theater techniques and modern multimedia to create a visually stunning and emotionally powerful experience.

The production was a critical and commercial success, winning numerous awards and playing to sold-out houses. It was also praised for its political relevance, as it resonated with audiences living in a time of increasing authoritarianism and social unrest.



The Trial of Ubu: Absurdist Theater In the Age of Trump

Alfred Jarry's play *Ubu Roi*, first performed in 1896, is a classic of absurdist theater. The play follows the rise and fall of Ubu, a grotesque and tyrannical king. In 2016, the Public Theater in New York City staged a new adaptation of *Ubu Roi*, titled *The Trial of Ubu*.

The Public Theater's production was a direct response to the election of Donald Trump. The play's director, Ivo van Hove, saw Ubu as a metaphor for Trump and his administration. The production featured a cast of clowns and puppets, and it used a variety of satirical techniques to skewer Trump and his policies.

The Trial of Ubu was a controversial production. Some critics praised it for its political relevance and its willingness to challenge authority. Others criticized it for being too heavy-handed and for not being funny enough. However, the production was a huge success with audiences, and it played to sold-out houses for months.



A scene from the Public Theater's production of *The Trial of Ubu*

Morning Carmen: Feminist Theater In the #MeToo Era

Carmen is one of the most famous and iconic characters in opera. She is a strong, independent woman who defies the social norms of her time.

However, in its 2018 production of *Morning Carmen*, the Royal Opera House in London took a feminist approach to this classic opera.

Morning Carmen explored the aftermath of Carmen's death from the perspective of her friends and family. The opera used a combination of traditional operatic music and spoken dialogue to create a powerful and moving experience. The production was praised for its feminist message and its exploration of the complexities of female identity.

Morning Carmen was a critical and commercial success, and it played to sold-out houses. The production was also praised for its political relevance, as it resonated with audiences living in the #MeToo era.



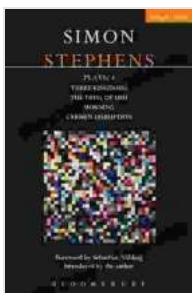
Disruption: The Future of Political Theater

The three productions discussed in this article are just a few examples of the many contemporary theater productions that are exploring the

intersection of politics, performance, and protest. These productions are challenging the status quo, provoking thought, and sparking debate.

As the world becomes increasingly complex and divided, political theater will play an increasingly important role in society. These productions will continue to challenge authority, give voice to the marginalized, and provoke audiences to think critically about the world around them.

The future of political theater is bright. As long as there are artists who are willing to challenge the status quo and provoke thought, there will be audiences who are eager to listen.



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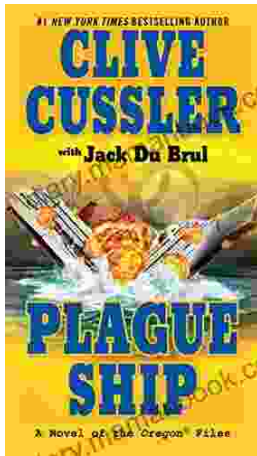
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