

Brecht Vita Di Galileo

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dramatizes galileo s conflict with the church over his assertion that the earth revolves around the sun

this student edition of brecht s classic dramatisation of the conflict between free enquiry and official ideology features an extensive introduction and commentary that includes a plot summary discussion of the context themes characters style and language as well as questions for further study and notes on words and phrases in the text it is the perfect edition for students of theatre and literature along with mother courage the character of galileo is one of brecht s greatest creations immensely live human and complex unable to resist his appetite for scientific investigation galileo s heretical discoveries about the solar system bring him to the attention of the inquisition he is scared into publicly abjuring his theories but despite his self contempt goes on working in private eventually helping to smuggle his writings out of the country as an examination of the problems that face not only the scientist but also the whole spirit of free inquiry when brought into conflict with the requirements of government or official ideology life of galileo has few equals

written in exile in 1937 9 and first performed in zurich in 1943 galileo was first staged in english in 1947 by joseph losey in a version jointly prepared by brecht and charles laughton who played the title role printed here is the complete translation by john willett

not only a hero of the scientific revolution but after his conflict with the church a hero of science galileo is today rivalled in the popular imagination only by newton and einstein but what did galileo actually do and what are the sources of the popular image we have of him this 1998 collection of specially commissioned essays is unparalleled in the depth of its coverage of all facets of galileo s work a particular feature of the volume is the treatment of galileo s relationship with the church it will be of interest to philosophers historians of science cultural historians and those in religious studies

arguably brecht s greatest play a life of galileo charts the seventeenth century scientist s extraordinary fight with the church over his assertion that the earth orbits the sun the figure of galileo whose heretical discoveries about the solar system brought him to the attention of the inquisition is one of brecht s more human and complex creations temporarily silenced by the inquisition s threat of torture and forced to abjure his theories publicly galileo continues to work in private eventually smuggling his work out of the country brecht s beautiful depiction of the explosive struggle between scientific discovery and religious fundamentalism is captured masterfully in this new translation by rsc writer in residence mark ravenhill

reprint of the original first published in 1883

the aim of this book is to explore and understand the activities undertaken by the florentine accademia del cimento one of europe s first scientific societies the cimento operated for ten years between 1657 and 1667 and during that time performed many experiments and observations in physics and astronomy rivalling the achievements of the royal society of london and the parisian académie royale des sciences this book will attempt to sift through the available primary evidence as well as secondary accounts of the cimento s activities in order to examine the intellectual concerns that the individual academicians acquired throughout their careers and that they pursued while carrying out and interpreting their experiments for the cimento and the tuscan court those interests will also shed some light on the ways in which the academicians performed and used experiments inspired by galileo s success with experiments and instruments during the first half of the seventeenth century the cimento academicians developed an experimentalist approach to their natural inquiry that attempted to eliminate any dependence on theoretical presuppositions and preconceptions the group s purported aim was to rely solely on the senses to accumulate knowledge of nature this experimental philosophy framed the way in which historians have since viewed the cimento s practices

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