

The Garden Party And Other Plays Havel Vaclav

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gathered together here for the first time are seven plays that span havel s career from his early days at the theater of the balustrade through the prague spring charter 77 and the repeated imprisonments that made havel s name into a rallying cry and propelled him to the leadership of his country they include the garden party the increased difficulty of concentration mistake the vanek trilogy of audience unveiling and protest and the first fully corrected english version of the memorandum the play that won havel the obie for best foreign play in 1968

the dissident politics in václav havel s vanek plays who is ferdinand vanek anyway focuses on ferdinand vanek a semi autobiographical character created by václav havel and featured in a series of nine plays written by havel himself and three other dissident writers pavel kohout pavel landovský and jirí dienstbier by exploring the vanek experience carol strong details a multi episodic absurdist journey that provides an insider s view of the challenges facing those daring enough to question the status quo a view that remains relevant today strong s contention is that the lines found in these plays served as a secret language of dissent in cold war czechoslovakia which called the citizenry to contemplate the need for societal reform as the plays were written at a time when the work of havel and other dissidents were banned the plays were never performed publicly but through clandestine living room performances and the sharing of samizdat scripts the plays found an audience select phrases were indeed whispered throughout underground networks and helped forge a sense of oppositional solidarity among potential activists strong s argument is that the vanek experience

metaphorically highlights how official power mechanisms are among the least insidious forms of societal power as the state must follow predictable patterns of legal jurisprudence by contrast non governmental forms of power as exercised by one s fellow citizens through informal social channels can challenge oppositional actors more because of the personal tone they adopt using this approach strong presents a timelessly relevant critique of modern society with its consumerist conformist tendencies

more than any other public figure václav havel has reflected on the opportunities and dilemmas facing humankind as a result of the communism s collapse his life serves as an example of responsible and moral action even at the cost of much personal suffering in the first book to bring together havel s life and work james pontuso examines the czech president s political philosophy pontuso argues that havel s life as a dissident and political leader his political writings and his plays are part of a whole and must be understood as intimately connected to one another in this engaging work pontuso skillfully explores these connections and explains havel s prescriptions for political life

václav havel claimed to want a quiet life dedicated to writing but he lived exactly the opposite as the most famous dissident via his poetry plays and essays in czechoslovakia under communist rule this biography is the first to pay close attention to havel s beginnings as a poet placing his later more famous works in the context of his poetical beginnings in doing so kieran williams sheds new light on havel s formative years and the stylistic and philosophical influences that would come to shape one of the most famous czech writers and political leaders of the twentieth century williams connects the plays for which havel is best known to his earlier poetry as well as to his development as a writer of profound insight on the arts his country s social and political turmoil and the modern condition at large he also contextualizes havel s oeuvre within his dramatic private life and his ambivalence about being the scion of a patriotic and cosmopolitan prague family reading havel s works in czech alongside his voluminous correspondence williams produces a full rounded picture of a figure of extraordinary artistic and political courage beset with inner paradoxes

a collection of critical essays on a czech playwright and president showing him from various perspectives contributions range from political analyses and historical assessments to linguistic interpretations tributes and personal memories themes include connections between his writing and his political career his political thought analysis of specific plays havel in the minds of his countrymen and havel on the role of the president annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

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this collection of current critical essays explores irish poet seamus heaney s aesthetic consciousness as it fuses a variety of discourses into revelatory poetic texts the collection differs from previous volumes in that its essays while offering a wide variety of approaches all concern themselves with the central critical issue of heaney s

artistic shaping arranged loosely in a chronological pattern corresponding to heaney s poetic career the essays offer insights into concerns ranging from heaney s reshaping of the mythological to his use of individual images to the influence of such mentors as dante and joyce to heaney s attempts to shape the numinous to his unique rendering of the words of others through translation book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

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here is the most useful and comprehensive reference book for contemporary theatre now available

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