

Three Plays Blithe Spirit Hay Fever Private Lives

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filled with languid aristocrats trading witticisms as they wait for martinis this collection of three noel coward plays encapsulates the qualities that made him one of the most popular playwrights of the 1930s and 40s and one of the great personalities of the century in blithe spirit charles condomine receives a visit from his first wife elvira unfortunately elvira is now a ghost and charles has understandably moved on and married ruth the bohemian protagonists of hay fever wreak emotional havoc on a house full of weekend visitors in private lives a recently divorced couple find themselves in adjoining hotel rooms while on honeymoon with their new spouses

i will ever be grateful for the almost psychic gift that enabled me to write blithe spirit in five days during one of the darkest years of the war written in 1941 blithe spirit remained the longest running comedy in british theatre for three decades thereafter plotted around the central role of one of coward s best loved characters a spirit medium madame arcati originally performed by margaret rutherford coward s play is an escapist comedy about a man whose two previous wives return to haunt him a minor comic masterpiece of the lighter sort professor allardyce nicoll

blithe spirit is a comic play by noël coward described by the author as an improbable farce in three acts the play concerns the socialite and novelist charles condomine who invites the eccentric medium and clairvoyant madame arcati to his house to conduct a séance hoping to gather material for his next book

noël coward combines a fresh appraisal of major plays by one of the twentieth century s most popular dramatists with an account of critical and theatrical responses to his life and work for almost the entirety of the twentieth century noël coward was one of the uk s most popular and celebrated playwrights refracting rather than directly reflecting the social and personal issues of his time his plays reveal tensions and contradictions in the theatre world that surrounded them as well as critical responses to his work and the key themes that it foregrounds seminal productions of the vortex private lives design for living hay fever blithe spirit and more are examined to further elaborate on the radicalism of his approach to personal and social relationships and the ways in which directors and actors have sought to achieve a sense of the

disquiet felt by critics and audiences when they were first produced this book explores the question of what Coward's work can speak to for today's modern audiences assessing his standing in terms of how conditions have changed in the theatre and society more broadly since they were written part of the Routledge Modern and Contemporary Dramatists Series Noël Coward provides undergraduate students on theatre studies degrees and modern drama courses an essential and accessible guide to the playwright's work and illustrates the influence of his drama on what theatre can tell us about our society

New York Magazine was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the New York Herald Tribune and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country with award-winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion the magazine's consistent mission has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself while celebrating New York as both a place and an idea

includes entries for maps and atlases

issues for 1914-67 include notable productions and important revivals of the London stage from the earliest times

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