

The Best American Short Plays 2006-2007: A Review and Analysis of Contemporary American Theater

The Best American Short Plays 2006-2007 anthology, edited by the esteemed theater critic and playwright John Guare, offers a captivating snapshot of contemporary American theater. This collection showcases a diverse range of short plays written by both established and emerging playwrights, providing a glimpse into the current theatrical landscape and the exciting directions in which American playwriting is evolving.

A Tapestry of Theatrical Voices

The anthology features an impressive array of playwrights, each with a distinct voice and perspective. The lineup includes established figures such as the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks and the Tony Award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang, alongside rising stars and Obie Award recipients like Will Eno and Sarah Ruhl. This diversity of voices ensures a rich and multifaceted theatrical experience, reflecting the vibrant tapestry of contemporary American playwriting.



The Best American Short Plays 2006-2007 by Donald B. Smith

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2917 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 380 pages



Thematic Explorations and Artistic Innovation

The short plays in this anthology explore a wide range of themes that resonate deeply with contemporary audiences. Issues of identity, race, gender, and sexuality are deftly woven into the narratives, sparking thought-provoking discussions and challenging societal norms. Playwrights experiment with unconventional forms and structures, pushing the boundaries of storytelling and theatrical presentation. The result is a dynamic collection that showcases the artistic innovation and imaginative prowess of American playwrights.

Individual Play Analyses

Let's delve into a brief analysis of some noteworthy plays from the anthology:

"The Unseen" by Suzan-Lori Parks

Parks' play, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, explores the complexities of race and identity in America. It follows two African American characters who grapple with their own perceptions of themselves and confront the unseen biases that shape their experiences.

"Yellow Fever" by David Henry Hwang

Hwang's play satirizes the stereotypes and misconceptions surrounding Asian masculinity. It centers on a group of Asian American men who confront their fears and insecurities, questioning traditional notions of manhood.

"The Flu Season" by Will Eno

Eno's poignant play explores the themes of loss, grief, and human connection. It follows a group of characters navigating the emotional fallout of losing a loved one, revealing the fragility and resilience of the human spirit.

"Passion Play" by Sarah Ruhl

Ruhl's play is a lyrical and whimsical examination of faith and belief. It transports audiences to a small town wrestling with the arrival of a mysterious woman who claims to possess miraculous powers.

A Reflection of Current Theatrical Trends

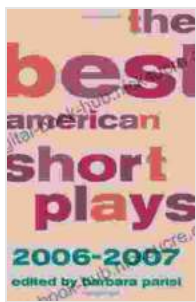
The Best American Short Plays 2006-2007 not only provides a snapshot of contemporary American theater but also reflects some of the prevailing trends and developments in the field:

- **Diversity and Inclusion:** The anthology showcases the growing diversity of voices in American theater, with playwrights from various backgrounds and experiences bringing fresh perspectives to the stage.
- **Exploration of Social Issues:** Contemporary American theater is increasingly engaging with pressing social issues, using the stage as a platform to provoke dialogue and challenge societal norms.
- **Artistic Experimentation:** Playwrights are pushing the boundaries of theatrical form and presentation, embracing unconventional structures, multimedia elements, and immersive experiences.

The Best American Short Plays 2006-2007 anthology is a must-read for anyone interested in contemporary American theater. It offers a

comprehensive and engaging overview of the field, highlighting the diverse voices, innovative artistry, and thought-provoking themes that characterize this vibrant and ever-evolving art form.

Through its insightful curation and analysis, this anthology serves as a valuable resource for theater enthusiasts, students, scholars, and anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of the American theatrical landscape.



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