



The America Play and Other Works

Suzan-Lori Parks

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'The America Play' follows an African-American gravedigger who loves and resembles Abraham Lincoln, so much so that he also works as a Lincoln impersonator. For this reason he is referred to throughout the play as the "Foundling Father." As an impersonator he charges his customers a penny to take part in a reenactment Lincoln's assassination.

The America Play and Other Works Details

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Author : Suzan-Lori Parks

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anique says

off the chain.

Emily says

-forget the usual
-challenge the shape of things-as-they-wish-you-to-see-them
-make equations and solve them your damn self
-stay awake
-!

Marci Daniels says

I'd like to see some of these plays performed, but reading them makes me want to paper-cut my eye-holes.

Jillian says

I've read worse. But written a paper on this using the New Critism method of analyzation... tourture.

Destiny Dawn Long says

This is one of those books that changed the way I thought. It has stuck with me as one of the most amazing books I've encountered. I started reading it because the title play was assigned in my "Modern Tragedy and Metatheater" class... but I ended up reading the whole thing cover to cover because I'd never encountered anything like it. Parks has such a gift with language--and she uses that gift to tackle important and complex subject matter in radical new ways.

I'd recommend it to anyone who is interested in post-modernism, theater (meta-theater in particular), or oppression studies.

Steve says

Fresh. New. Thought-provoking. Loved it. I especially loved the essays. I suspect the plays would ring so much more meaningful if viewed as opposed to read. Glad to have been introduced to a transcendent new voice in American drama.

Simon A. says

I really liked this a lot. I wish there were more playwrights around with ideas and concepts this original and fresh. For those of you who aren't familiar, Parks' work is pretty complex, multi-layered and very postmodern, but her essays in the beginning I think do a fine job explaining her style and objectives. She uses a technique she calls "rep and rev" to recreate a fantastic faux-historical pastiche of sorts...

We need more writers like her. I want a theater revival, another golden age... The stage is such an incredible forum for story and drama and expression. I've always thought it was the highest form of art and I think Parks, with all her daring and cunning, does it justice. Trust the hype. Check this one out.

Nick Jacob says

Wildly imaginative and bizarre exploration of the Lincoln myth from a Black American cultural perspective.

Phanesia Pharel says

It took me awhile but this collection is so interesting! I love the essays in the beginning and the plays themselves are marvelous and complex-as expected.

Haley says

If you don't think you know what's happening in this play, I'm with you. It's definitely hard to get through, but that doesn't take away any of the power in Parks' writing. Honestly a play you need to sit with for a little while.

Phillip says

I think The America Play is a really interesting text, but I would absolutely need to see it staged before I could begin to say I understand it. And I would love to see this performed.

The play raises a lot of interesting questions about history and the way that history gets redeployed, questions which are especially relevant in the current political moment as the image of The Founding Fathers

is continually dredged up to support almost any position at all. The America Play draws our attention to the theatricality of this invocation by implicating the audience in a metatheatrical spiral--we see 'customers' performing a ritualized 'assassination' of Abe Lincoln complete with props and costuming choices being made and discussed. And because we see this performance by people who are supposed to be just like us--customers seeking entertainment--we begin to realize our own implication in the violence of history and the violence of how history is used and conceptualized.

M Cochran says

I only read The America Play for class.

Nell says

She reminds me of how I felt when I first read Beckett.

Carrie says

I'm not sophisticated enough to get this.

David Pickett says

The America Play - A black man makes a living by impersonating Abe Lincoln and it takes place in The Great Hole of History.

Trippy trippy Trippy.
