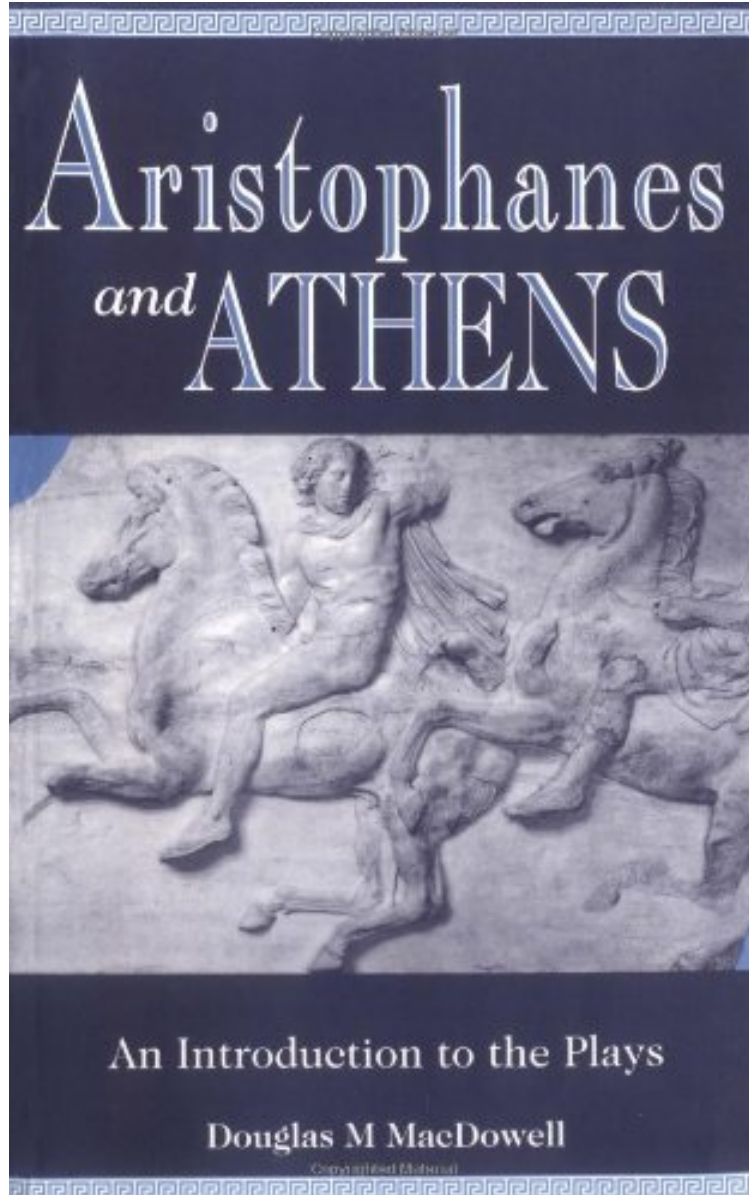


(Free) Aristophanes and Athens: An Introduction to the Plays

Aristophanes and Athens: An Introduction to the Plays

Douglas M. MacDowell

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Douglas M. MacDowell : Aristophanes and Athens: An Introduction to the Plays before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Aristophanes and Athens: An Introduction to the Plays:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Strong Opinions, and a Fine Overview By Doug - Haydn
Fan Professor MacDowell here gives a play by play breakdown of the works of Aristophanes. Included are short summaries, or surmises on the missing plays when there is some evidence - extracts, period references, etc. Professor

MacDowell writes clearly and his thoughts are easy to follow - something I cannot say for a majority of his tribe. He can also be quite blunt about views not in accord with his own conclusions! A great deal of his attention focuses on Aristophanes' efforts to sell his ideas - with special emphasis on the political - to the Athenian audience through his plays, a valid and persuasive starting point for examination of the works as well as one which gives a strong immediacy to the discussion. The reader receives a steady stream of up-to-date information as to the how and the where and the why for each play's production. MacDowell's approach does not categorically eschew topicality; he makes an apt and enlightening analogy between the younger Aristophanes' plays and the films of Hitchcock and the differing roles of producer and artist. Overall this book represents much diligent and careful thought: MacDowell is as well versed as anyone in the literature and it shows. While I differ on several points, his overall conception shows much distinction. The Chapters vary in quality, but all are thoroughly discussed and several, such as the essays on the Akharnians and Wasps, are very fine indeed. A thought-provoking book; not only a good overview of the works for someone who wishes to further and more closely examine this most perplexing of comic masters, but also an excellent addition to a classical library of critical works. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Easy to Read By Duke If you are interested in Aristophanes--this book is great! It is very accessible and easy to follow. However, the book doesn't have the actual texts of Aristophanes' work, so you need to either be familiar with his work or get the actual texts of his work elsewhere. Still, I would recommend anyone interested in Aristophanes and philosophy in general should read this book--it is very helpful for understanding the relationship between Aristophanes and his works with Socrates and the people of Athens in general. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Patrick N. Duah Gud book

Aristophanes' comedies are famous for their comic characters and earthy humor. But they are also highly topical, with many contemporary political allusions easily missed today. This book provides students with a long needed accessible and essential introductory guide to the plays, focusing particularly on information about the Athens of the day.

Douglas M. MacDowell ... is eminently qualified to write this book. No background knowledge is assumed; the context of the plays is succinctly and accurately summarized ... MacDowell's refreshing contribution is to show how the serious comments are transmitted through comic plot and production ... There is no better introduction to this enigmatic author. * Times Literary Supplement * About the Author MacDowell is a well-known expert on Aristophanes, and is the editor of a commentary on Aristophanes: Wasps for OUP (1971). He has also written on a variety of topics in ancient history, particularly law and politics.