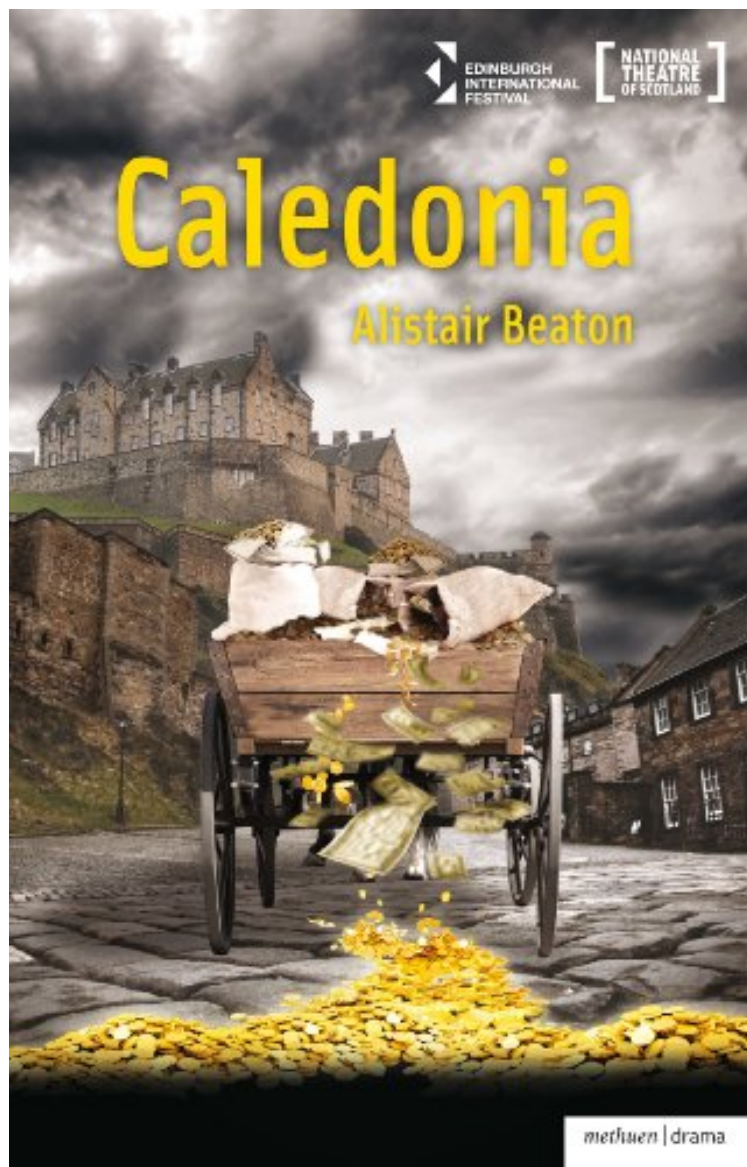


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Caledonia (Modern Plays)

Alistair Beaton

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Alistair Beaton : Caledonia (Modern Plays) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Caledonia (Modern Plays):

Caledonia is a story of greed, euphoria and mass delusion. It is the story of a small, poor country mistaking itself for a place that is both big and rich. It is an ancient story for modern times. William Paterson was a financial adventurer who in 1698 devised one of the most daring and disastrous speculations of all time. His plan: to found a Scottish colony in

Darien on the isthmus of Panama in Central America and turn Scotland, one of the poorest nations in Europe, into a prosperous colonial power. He invited the public to invest. And they did - in a big way. Within weeks a vast proportion of the nation's wealth had been subscribed. What went wrong? Distance, disease, corruption and culpability all played a part in this ruinous episode. Within a few years, the Scots - demoralised and impoverished - gave up their nation's independent status and signed the 1707 Treaty of Union with England. Inspired by documents, journals, letters, songs and poems of the period, celebrated playwright and satirist Alistair Beaton has created a work that is both a tribute to heroic ambition and a darkly witty take on the deceptions and self-deceptions of rich and poor alike. *Caledonia* will headline the Edinburgh International Festival, in a co-production with the National Theatre of Scotland and directed by Anthony Neilson, opening on 13 August 2010.

Caledonia goes from knock-about humour to something close to tragedy, finishing with tremendous power on a note of political outrage as playwright and director remind us that in the financial follies of the rich and powerful, it is the ordinary person who pays the price. (Scotsman) *Caledonia* is a delightful satirical, historical romp with songs that has astonishing contemporary resonance. (British Theatre Guide) About the Author Alistair Beaton's plays and translations include *Feelgood*, *King of Hearts* and *Follow My Leader*, Max Frisch's *The Arsonists*, and Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle*. For television, he wrote the award-winning *A Very Social Secretary* (2005) and the Channel 4 film *The Trial of Tony Blair* (2007).