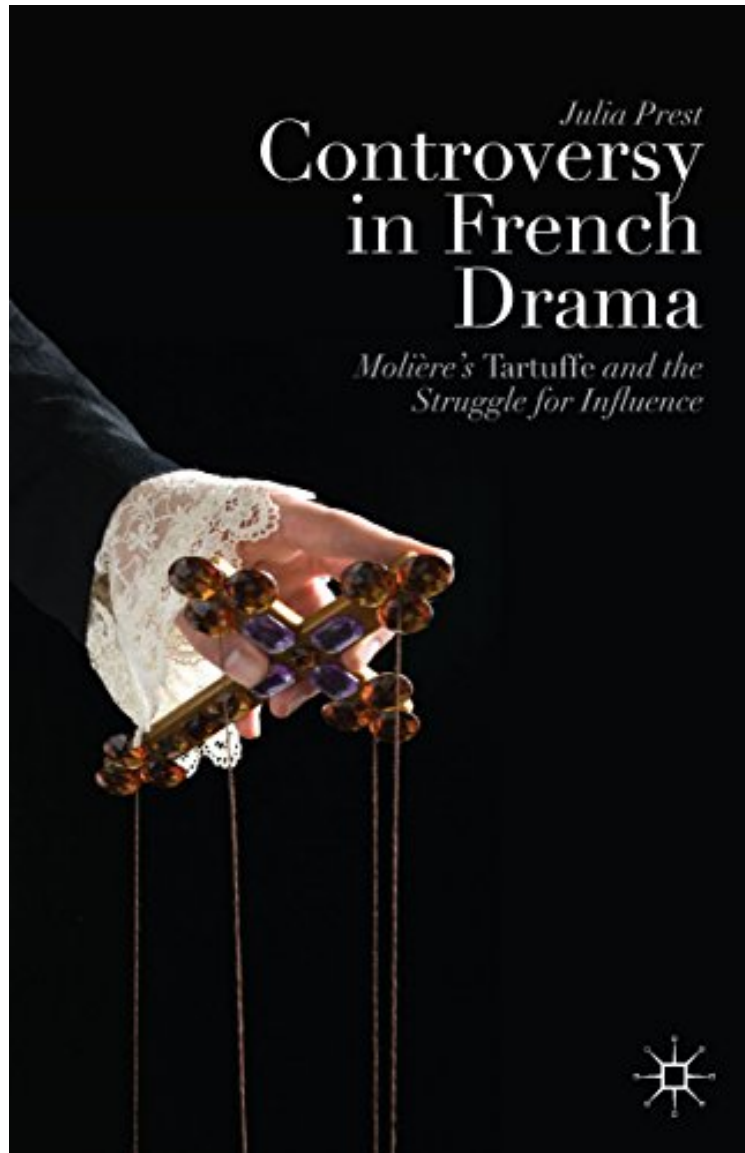


(Get free) Controversy in French Drama: Molière's Tartuffe and the Struggle for Influence

Controversy in French Drama: Molière's Tartuffe and the Struggle for Influence

J. Prest

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J. Prest : Controversy in French Drama: Molière's Tartuffe and the Struggle for Influence before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Controversy in French Drama: Molière's Tartuffe and the Struggle for Influence:

In 1664, Molière's *Tartuffe* was banned from public performance. This book provides a detailed, in-depth account of five-year struggle (1664-69) to have the ban lifted and, so doing, sheds important new light on 1660s France and the ancien régime more broadly.

Julia Prest's *Controversy in French Drama: Molière's *Tartuffe* and the Struggle for Influence* elucidates standard narratives of the 1664-69 *Tartuffe* controversy and adds new dimensions by examining a wide swath of primary and secondary sources. Grounded in religious history and synthesizing French-language and English-language scholarship on *Tartuffe*, this book is sure to have a long shelf life. Prest provides crucial literary and historical context, clearly articulating the stakes of the *Tartuffe* debates. (Daniel Smith, *Comparative Drama*, Vol. 50 (1), September, 2016) "The Shape of [Prest's] argument is essentially chiasmic, with the 'struggle for influence' of the first and last chapters encasing three central pieces which focus, relatedly, on the nature and meaning of true and false devotion in the period . . . The valuable insight which Prest affords is to bring out how, as a result, the presence of moral goodness is seen to lie most clearly outside, rather than within, the parameters of Christianity. The book adopts a clearly articulated line of argument and, in doing so, brings history, spirituality, and theatre into an enlightening synthesis." - *Times Literary Supplement* "Elegantly written, thoroughly engaging, and highly accessible to non-specialists, *Controversy in French Drama* systematically uncovers the power of Molière's *Tartuffe* to scandalize and delight audiences, not only in its original historic context (so masterfully drawn here), but also through the centuries to today. It is essential reading for all those interested in Molière and French classical theatre and culture." - Larry F. Norman, Professor of French and Theatre and Performance, University of Chicago, USA, and author of *Molière and the Social Commerce of Depiction* and *The Shock of the Ancient: Literature and History in Early Modern France* "Julia Prest presents a precisely detailed and subtly argued examination of the religious and political context of the 'querelle de *Tartuffe*'. Carefully considering the contemporary meaning of 'zealotry' and 'hypocrisy', she gives a fascinating account of the power-play between the young King and his religious advisors, together with rare insights into the secret workings of the *Compagnie du Saint-Sacrement*, thereby casting new light on the controversy surrounding this most popular of works." - Jan Clarke, Professor of French, Durham University, UK "In a crystal-clear and vivid style, Julia Prest sheds new light on Molière's *Tartuffe* controversy (1664-1669). Re-reading *Tartuffe* alongside Bossuet's sermons and Louis XIV's memoirs, she enlightens the ferocious struggle that opposed religious and lay conceptions of the State in France and brilliantly re-examines the famous debate on hypocrisy. A highly stimulating historical and political evaluation of Molière's masterwork." - Gilles Declercq, Professor and Director of the Drama Research Center, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, France