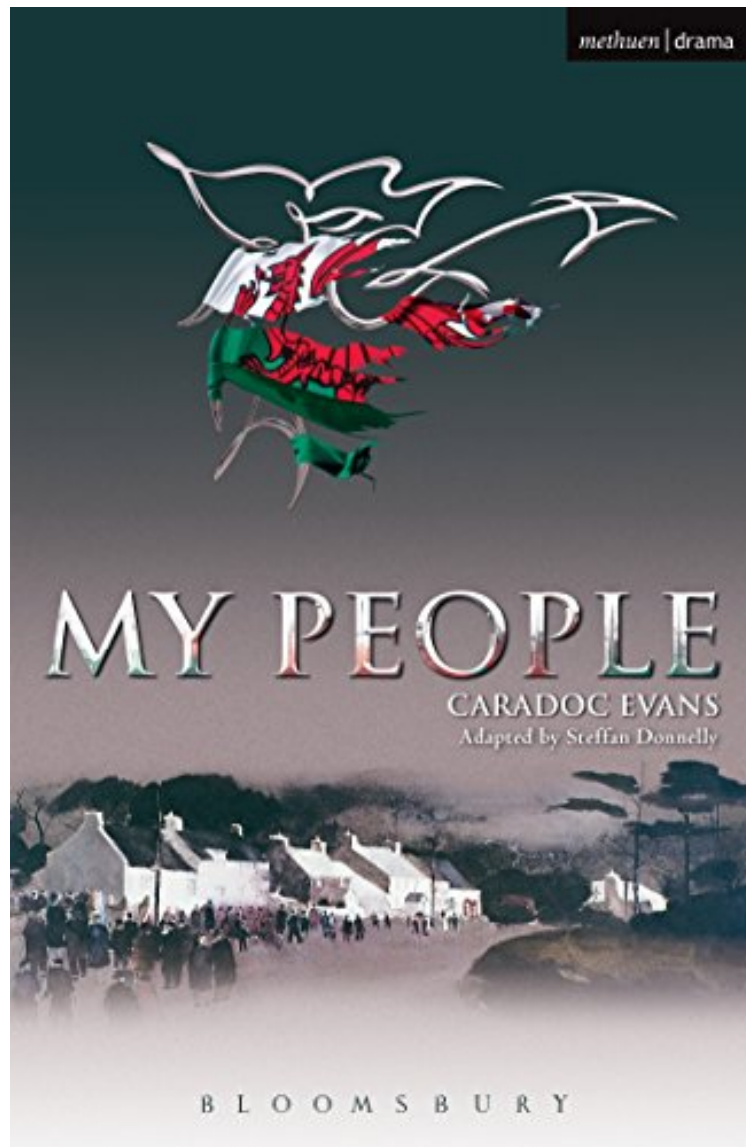


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My People (Modern Plays)

Caradoc Evans

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Caradoc Evans : My People (Modern Plays) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My People (Modern Plays):

In a chapel service in rural Wales, all is not what it seems . . . A stage adaptation of one of the most celebrated and controversial short-story collections in the history of Anglo-Welsh literature. Originally published in 1915, the searing stories of My People ndash; darkly comic, poignant, with flashes of savagery ndash; exposed the hypocrisy and

avarice nestling side-by-side in a Nonconformist community in the rural West Wales of the early 1900s. First produced in the centenary year of the publication of the original collection, this radical reimagining makes us question whether the events depicted in these remarkable stories are consigned to the past, or can we discern uncomfortable parallels in our modern life? This programme text edition was published to coincide with the world premiere of the stage adaptation on 5 November 2015 at Clwyd Theatr Cymru, in a co-production with Invertigo Theatre.

It was the hardline pieties of chapel life for which [Evans] reserved his greatest rancour - a point well illustrated in Steffan Donnelly's adaptation . . . intense . . . Donnelly . . . weaves the tales into a form of increasingly nightmarish, collective hallucination that culminates in a bizarre beach party in which the deacons dance around in their swimwear. * Guardian * fully embraces the biblically bad behaviour contained in Evans' stories * Stage * [Caradoc Evans's] characters are sketched in acid-sharp prose; the harshness of their lives and the cruelty and hypocrisy of their chapel-oriented society is portrayed with biting humour. . . . Steffan Donnelly's clever adaptation . . . preserves much of Evans's language and translates his extraordinary blend of fact and fiction to the stage by introducing striking expressionist instants into naturalistic-style action. * Observer *

About the Author Caradoc Evans (1878-1945) was a Welsh novelist, playwright and short story writer. Perhaps best known for his first collection, *My People*, his writing was vilified by the popular press and celebrated by the literary world, with comparisons made to Balzac and Joyce, and Dylan Thomas listing him as one of his early influences. Writing in an English that was heavily influenced by Welsh grammar and vocabulary, his work sought to puncture the myths of quotidian life in Wales, juxtaposing religiosity with the fearsome poverty in which people existed. Steffan Donnelly is an actor, theatre-maker, and Joint Artistic Director of Invertigo Theatre Company. He has written and produced a number of short films (selected for showing at the British Film Institute as well as festivals in Bristol, London and Berlin), a short play for HighTide Festival Theatre 2013, and co-wrote the National Youth Theatre of Wales' 2010 touring production *No Other Day Like Today/Diwrnod Heb Ei Debyg*. He is an Associate Artist of the National Youth Theatre and was Assistant Director on *Welcoming The World* (part of the National Theatre's *Watch This Space* Festival 2011). As an actor he has worked in theatres including Shakespeare's Globe, Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, and Barbican Centre.