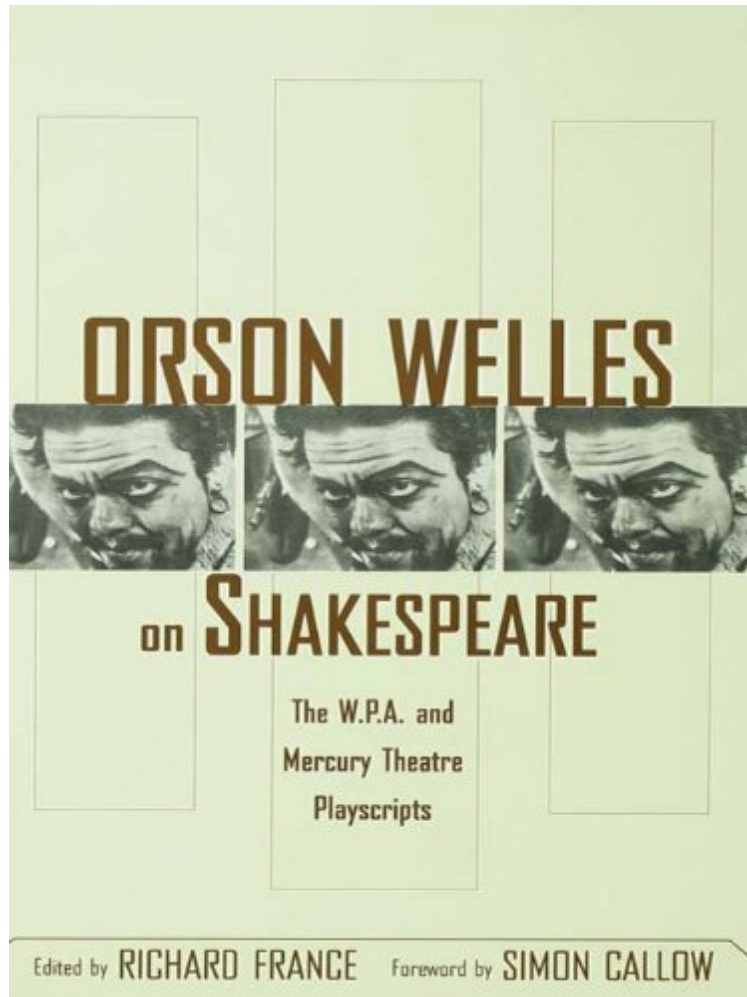


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## Orson Welles on Shakespeare: The W.P.A. and Mercury Theatre Playscripts

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**From Routledge : Orson Welles on Shakespeare: The W.P.A. and Mercury Theatre Playscripts** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Orson Welles on Shakespeare: The W.P.A. and Mercury Theatre Playscripts:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. For the right theatre fan, this is a must! By M. Jackson For a fan of theatre interested in the W.P.A. years, Orson Welles and Shakespeare, this book is invaluable. Since we can't go back in time to see the Orson Welles theatre productions of note, we can at least read the scripts to see how he cut them and read the insightful notes by Richard France about the productions. There could have been more pictures, but oh well, the thrust is the text of the scripts, VOODOO MACBETH, CAESAR and FIVE KINGS. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Genius on genius By Peter J. Orvetti This slim volume collects Welles's three great Shakespeare adaptations -- his "Voodoo Macbeth", fascist "Julius Caesar", and "Five Kings", his grand and

unfortunately never fully realized abridgement of the Henriad focused on Falstaff. (The script would become the basis of his wonderful film "Chimes at Midnight".) While the commentary by Richard France is satisfactory, the joy of this book is in the scripts, as one of the theatrical geniuses of the 20th century interprets and reimagines the greatest theatrical genius ever.

This volume is the only publication available of the fully annotated playscripts of Wells' W.P.A Federal Theatre Project and Mercury Theatre adaptations, including the "Voodoo" Macbeth, the modern-dress Julius Caesar and Welles' compilation of history plays, Five Kings.

"Richard France has given us access to genius in making Orson Welles' Shakespeare texts available. Bravo!"-Stuart Vaughan, Former Artistic Director of the New York Shakespeare Festival "Richard France brilliantly illuminates the work of Orson Welles, providing the reader with a wealth of riches in his inspiring collection. Anyone who loves theatre and film, and who is fascinated by this great American genius, will love this book. France has give un easy access to the Welles' versions of his famous voodoo "Macbeth, as well as his fascist "Julius Caesar, and finally, of "Five Kings, a reworking of Shakespeare's history plays. Wonderfully insightful, presented with eloquence and style, reading this book is like sitting down to a delicious meal. Thank you, Richard France, for this extraordinary piece of theatre history-it is to be cherished."-Stacy Keach "A singularly important contribution to the growing body of material which holds that we should pay more attention to Shakespeare texts as performed and less to historical issues of textual authenticity. France's own experience as a playwright enables him to treat issues involving Welles and theatre with keener insight than most academic writing on the subject."-Robert L. Carringer, University of Illinois at Urbana "The reputation of Orson Welles, tarnished by his own excesses, has been glowingly restored by Richard France's brilliant editing of the "W.P.A. Mercury Theatre Playscripts. France skillfully reminds us why Welles dominates the history of the 20th Century as one of our greatest stage and film directors."-Gene Feist, Founding Director of the Roundabout Theatre Company ..."a mandatory volume forfans of either Welles or Shakespeare, which should encompass just about every culturally literate person alive.." - Scott Eyman," West Palm Beach Post January 20, 2002 About the AuthorRICHARD FRANCE teaches at the University of Southern California. His many plays include The Image of Elmo Doyle, contained in the Best Short Plays of 1979, the dramitization of One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, and Station J, winner of the 1982 Silver PEN award. He has previously taught at Brown University and Lawrence University and his book The Theatre of Orson Welles was a Choice selection for Most Outstanding Academic Books of 1978.