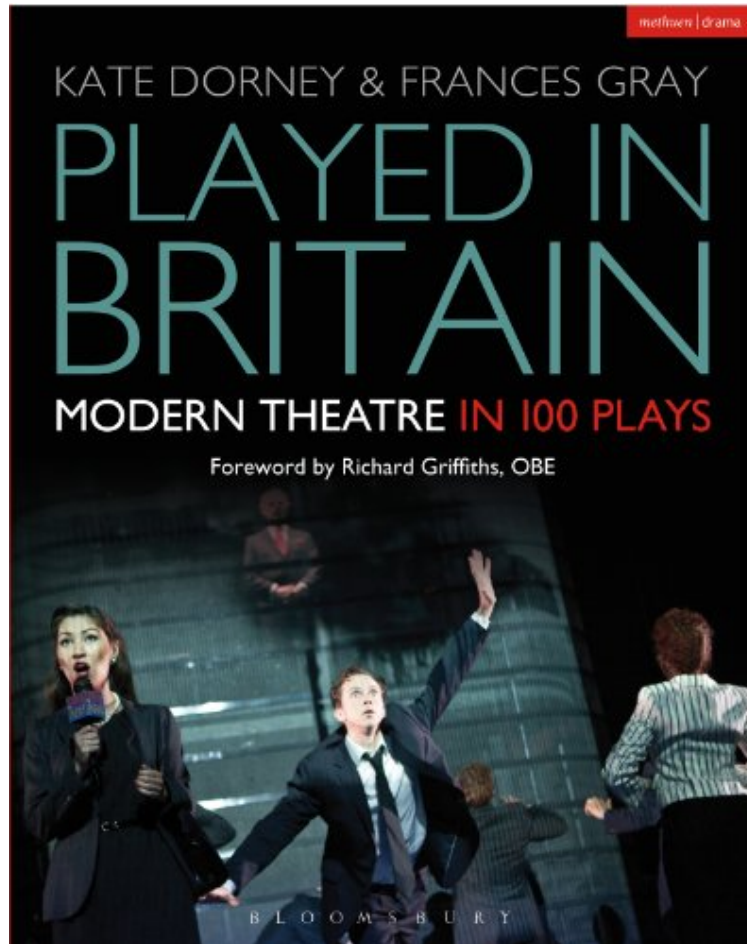


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## Played in Britain: Modern Theatre in 100 Plays (Plays and Playwrights)

*Kate Dorney, Frances Gray*

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**Kate Dorney, Frances Gray : Played in Britain: Modern Theatre in 100 Plays (Plays and Playwrights)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Played in Britain: Modern Theatre in 100 Plays (Plays and Playwrights):

Published in collaboration with the Victoria Albert Museum, *Played in Britain: Modern Theatre in 100 Plays* explores the best and most influential plays from 1945 to date. Fully illustrated with photos from the VA's collections and featuring a foreword by Richard Griffiths O.B.E., the book provides a sumptuous treat for theatre-lovers. It was awarded the 2014 David Bradby Award for research by the Theatre and Performance Research Association. Opening with J. B. Priestley's classic play from 1946, *An Inspector Calls*, and ending with Laura Wade's examination of class privilege and moral turpitude in *Posh* over sixty years later, *Played in Britain* offers a visual history of post-war theatre

on the British stage. Arranged chronologically the featured plays illustrate and respond to a number of themes that animate post-war society: censorship and controversy; race and immigration; gender and sexuality; money and politics. An essay on each period first sets the context and explores trends, while the commentary accompanying each play illuminates the plot and themes, considers its original reception and subsequent afterlife, and finishes by suggesting other plays to explore. Photographs from the VA's extensive collection illustrate each play, providing further insight into stage and costume designs, and include iconic images from the premieres of major plays such as *Waiting for Godot* and *Look Back in Anger*. Illustrated throughout with stage production photography, *Played in Britain: Modern Theatre in 100 Plays* presents a unique and visually stunning panorama of key dramatic works produced in Britain over the past seventy years. From *An Inspector Calls* to *The Rocky Horror Show*, or *Abigail's Party* to *Waiting for Godot*, fresh light is thrown on the impact, aesthetics and essence of these key plays.

Amidst the lavish illustrations [*Played in Britain*] provides a well-informed digest of what the authors consider to be the 100 most influential plays to have been performed in British theatres since 1945 ... The book serves a purpose in allowing the reader to make constant re-evaluations of the dramatic canon. *The Year's Work in English Studies* For a theatre-buff-in-training, this is an extremely enjoyable and attractive book. -- Rachel Creaser Teaching Drama About the Author Kate Dorney is Curator of Modern and Contemporary Performance at the Victoria Albert Theatre Collections, London, UK. She has authored books on modern British theatre and the arts. Frances Gray is former Reader in Drama at the University of Sheffield. She has published books on comedy, crime, John Arden and Noel Coward and writes plays for the stage and for radio. She has a Radio Times Award for radio comedy.