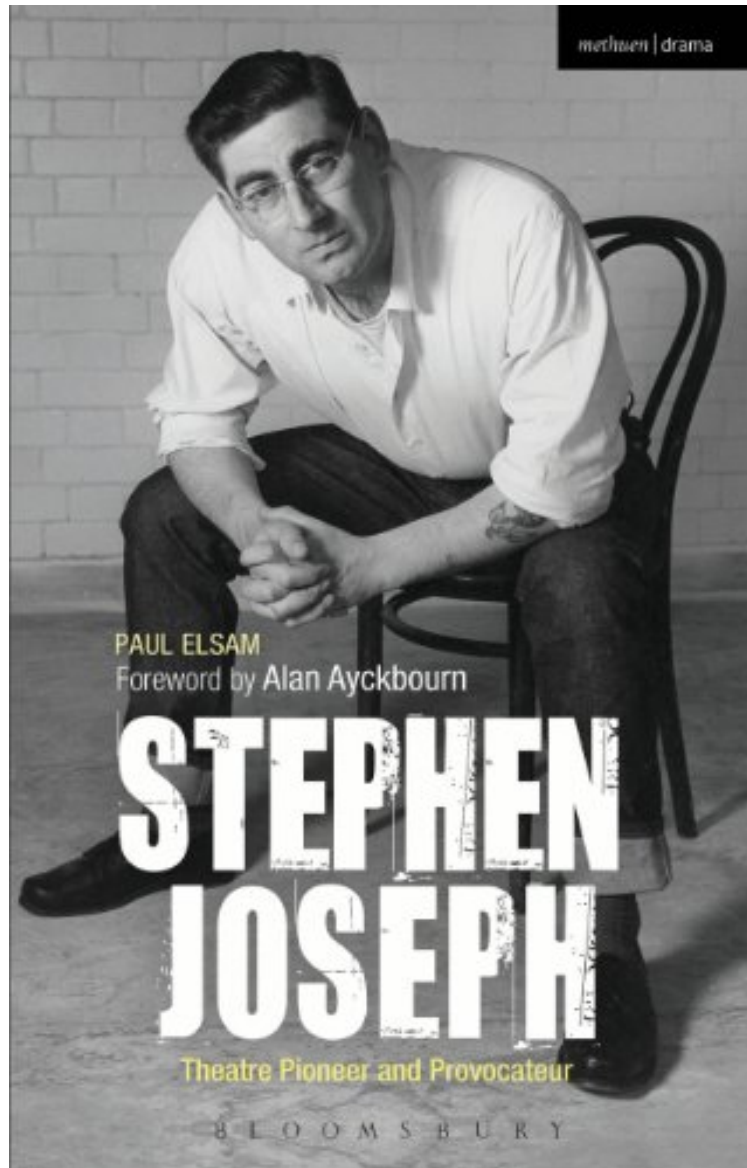


(Download free ebook) Stephen Joseph: Theatre Pioneer and Provocateur (Biography and Autobiography)

Stephen Joseph: Theatre Pioneer and Provocateur (Biography and Autobiography)

Paul Elsam

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Paul Elsam : Stephen Joseph: Theatre Pioneer and Provocateur (Biography and Autobiography) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stephen Joseph: Theatre Pioneer and Provocateur (Biography and Autobiography):

A 1967 obituary in *The Times* labelled Stephen Joseph 'the most successful missionary to work in the English theatre since the second world war'. This radical man brought theatre-in-the-round to Britain, provoked Ayckbourn, Pinter and verbatim theatre creator Peter Cheeseman to write and direct, and democratised theatregoing. This monograph investigates his forgotten legacy. This monograph draws on largely unsorted archival material (including letters from Harold Pinter, J. B. Priestley, Peggy Ramsay and others), and on new interviews with figures including Sir Alan Ayckbourn, Trevor Griffiths and Sir Ben Kingsley, to demonstrate how the impact on theatre in Britain of manager, director and 'missionary' Stephen Joseph has been far greater than is currently acknowledged within traditional theatre history narratives. The text provides a detailed assessment of Joseph's work and ideas during his lifetime, and summarises his broadly-unrecognised posthumous legacy within contemporary theatre. Throughout the book Paul Elsam identifies Joseph's work and ideas, and illustrates and analyses how others have responded to them. Key incidents and events during Joseph's career are interrogated, and case studies that highlight Joseph's influence and working methods are provided.

This informative study of the man and artist fills a void in the scholarship on post-WW II British fringe theater. Elsam's book is an enjoyable read, filled with interesting anecdotes and a clear sense of Joseph's importance (as bolstered by interviews with Ayckbourn, Trevor Griffiths, and Ben Kingsley). The book includes a useful time line of Joseph's life, a few photos from Joseph productions, and a copious bibliography. Summing Up: Recommended. Undergraduates, graduate students, researchers/faculty, and professionals/practitioners. J. Fisher, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, CHOICE; Elsam has been at pains to explore even indirect traces of Joseph's impact on theatre and theatrical practitioners and to demonstrate the effects of his work into the present century. Elsam provides substantial information, much of it drawn from letters, about Joseph's efforts to find support for his experimental work and about his quarrels with established theater critics such as W.A. Darlington and Kenneth Tynan. Verna A. Foster, Loyola University Chicago, USA, Text Presentation; In this well-researched study, the author strives to offer a fresh and deep reappraisal of Joseph's work, and a thorough re-examination of his discoveries which he does. [Elsam's] book makes a powerful case as to the centrality of Stephen Joseph in British theatrical history and practice. - Text Presentation About the Author Paul Elsam trained as an actor at the former Manchester Polytechnic School of Theatre, UK, and has worked widely as a performer in theatre, radio, film and television, including in BAFTA and Olivier-nominated productions on stage and screen. He has directed professional actors and students in both the UK and the USA, often working 'in the round'. He has held teaching posts at the universities of Hull and Teesside, and at the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts. He maintains a strong research interest in post-war theatre historiography, and in the praxis of actor training.