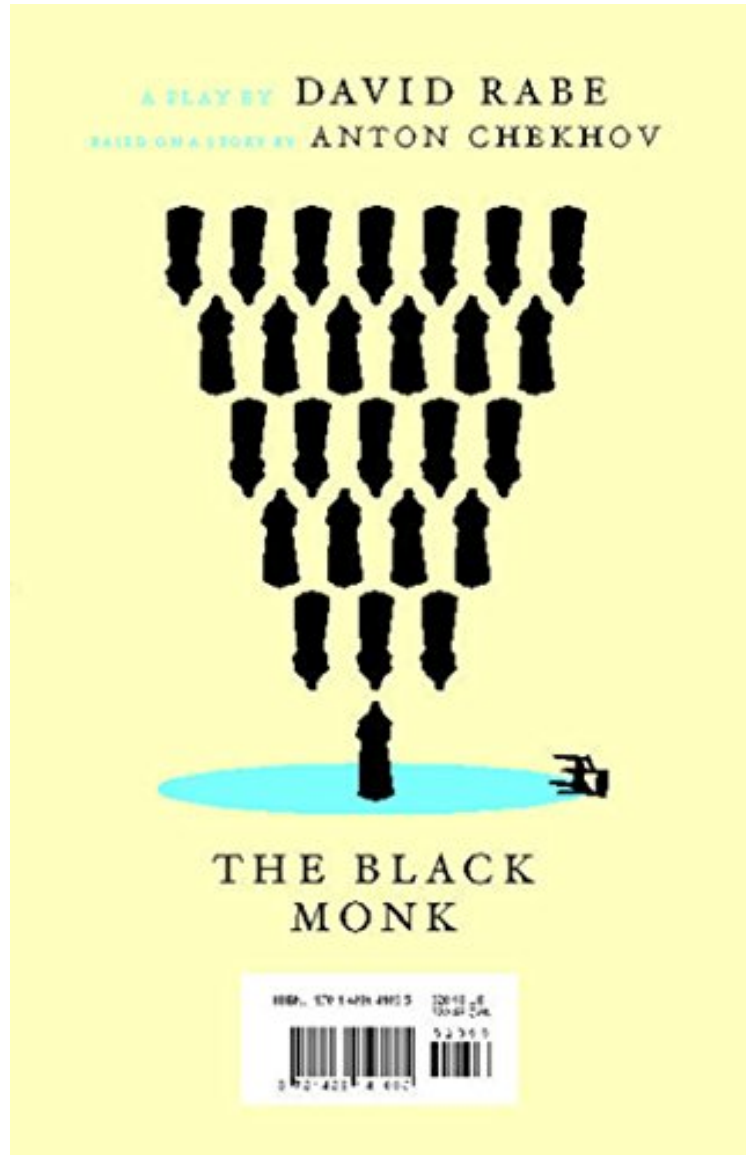


(Download pdf) The Black Monk and The Dog Problem: Two Plays

The Black Monk and The Dog Problem: Two Plays

David Rabe

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David Rabe : The Black Monk and The Dog Problem: Two Plays before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Black Monk and The Dog Problem: Two Plays:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun showsBy mikehonchoGreat pair of stories. The Dog Problem was wonderful! Hard to find a great cast for, but has high potential.

The Black Monk has been called a singular "collaboration" between two writers: Anton Chekhov and David Rabe. Based on Chekov's novella of the same name, Rabe's brilliant stage adaptation tells the story of Kovrin, the young

philosophy student who returns from Moscow to the estate owned by Pesotsky, where he spent his youth. Kovrin and Pesotsky's daughter, Tanya, soon fall in love and plan to marry. But the appearance of an emissary from the unknown -- the black monk -- threatens to have a devastating effect on all of them. Trouble starts in when Teresa tells her brother Joey that this guy Ray did something to her with his dog in bed. Nobody seems to know exactly what happened, but they do know that somebody's got to pay. So what is *The Dog Problem*? It starts with being born into a world where the wrong thing said to the wrong person ignites a chain reaction of misplaced passions and galloping sentences that race to a deadly conclusion. The playful title is revealed to be a wry pun on the Cartesian mind/body problem, as Uncle Mal, the aging mobster, must face his turn to be the dog in this darkly funny play about men, women, sex, betrayal, and ghosts. Vastly different in their aesthetic, these two recent and highly praised plays embody all of the celebrated hallmarks of David Rabe's writing and art: unflinchingly honest and perceptive themes, starkly luminous dialogue, and the unsettling humor that have made him an icon of the American theater for more than forty years.

About the Author DAVID RABE has been hailed as one of America's greatest living playwrights. He is the author of many widely performed plays, including *The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel*, *Sticks and Bones*, *In the Boom Boom Room*, *Streamers*, *Hurlyburly*, and *The Dog Problem*. Four of his plays have been nominated for the Tony Award, including one win for Best Play. He is the recipient of an Obie Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, Drama Desk Award, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, among others. His numerous screenwriting credits include *Dancing as Fast as I Can*, *Casualties of War*, *Hurlyburly*, and *The Firm*. Rabe is the critically acclaimed author of the novels *Dinosaurs on the Roof* and *Recital of the Dog*, and a collection of short stories, *A Primitive Heart*. Born in Dubuque, Iowa, Rabe lives with his family in Northwest Connecticut.