



Playing a Part in History: The York Mysteries, 1951 - 2006 (Studies in Early English Drama)

By Margaret Rogerson

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The York Mystery Plays are a cycle of originally performed on wagons in the city. They date from the fourteenth century and Biblical narrative from Creation to Last Judgment. After nearly four hundred years without a performance, a revival of the York Mysteries began in 1951 when local amateurs led by professional theatre practitioners staged them during the festival of Britain. *Playing a Part in History* examines the ways in which the revival of these plays transformed them for twentieth- and twenty-first-century audiences.

Considering such topics as the contemporary popularity of the plays, the agendas of the revivalists, and major production differences, Margaret Rogerson provides a fascinating comparison of medieval and modern English drama. Drawing extensively on archival material, and newspaper and academic reviews of the plays in recent years, *Playing a Part in History* is not only an illuminating account of early English drama, but also of the ways in which theatre allows people to interact with the past.

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Editorial Review

Review

'Rogerson's new study is of great interest... It is a very human story with a serious academic purpose... The author can be congratulated on a work which is far more than a narrative of a city's collective efforts at a dramatic revival.' (D.M. Palliser, *Northern History*: vol67:02:10)

About the Author

Margaret Rogerson is a senior lecturer in the Department of English at the University of Sydney.

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