



The Master Builder

By Henrik Ibsen, David Hare

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The change will come. And it's not far away, I promise you that. Some figure will emerge from the dark screaming 'Get out of the way'. And not far behind others will follow... The young are waiting. In all their power. Knocking on the door.

The master builder Halvard Solness has a fear of falling. A self-made man, without professional qualifications, he has achieved domination in the town but he's increasingly frightened of being displaced by the young. A woman, Hilde Wangel, appears from the mountains, claiming to have known Solness ten years previously, and telling him of a promise he made to her when she thirteen.

David Hare has written a new adaptation of one of Henrik Ibsen's most complex autobiographical masterpieces - a mesmeric exploration of control, power, lust and death, which builds to a vertiginous climax.

The Master Builder premiered in this English version at The Old Vic, London, in January 2016.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906), Norwegian poet and playwright, was one of the shapers of modern theatre, who tempered naturalism with an understanding of social responsibility and individual psychology. His earliest major plays, *Brand* (1866) and *Peer Gynt* (1867), were large-scale verse dramas, but with *Pillars of the Community* (1877) he began to explore contemporary issues. There followed *A Doll's House* (1879), *Ghosts* (1881) and *An Enemy of the People* (1882). A richer understanding of the complexity of human impulses marks such later works as *The Wild Duck* (1885), *Rosmersholm* (1886), *Hedda Gabler* (1890) and *The Master Builder* (1892), while the imminence of mortality overshadows his last great plays, *John Gabriel Borkman* (1896) and *When We Dead Awaken* (1899). David Hare is a playwright and filmmaker. His stage plays include *Plenty*, *Pravda* (with Howard Brenton) *Racing Demon*, *Skylight*, *Amy's View*, *Via Dolorosa*, *Stuff Happens*, *South Downs*, *The Absence of War* and *The Judas Kiss*. His films for cinema and television include *Wetherby*, *The Hours*, *Damage*, *The Reader* and the *Worricker* trilogy: *Page Eight*, *Turks & Caicos* and *Salting the Battlefield*. He has written English adaptations of plays by Pirandello, Chekhov, Brecht, Schnitzler, Lorca, Gorky and Ibsen. For fifteen years he was an Associate Director of the National Theatre.

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Leta Welter:

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Norberto Brody:

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