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SKINNER WELCH

Thyestes Faber & Faber

I can't take care of you anymore. I can't take it. It's like an endless boxing match. Mia is at boarding school. She has access to drugs. They are Martha's. Henry is preparing for art college. He has access to alcohol. From Martha. Martha controls their lives. Martha is their mother. That Face premiered at the Royal Court Theatre, London, in April 2007, and won the TMA Award 2007 for Best New Play. Polly Stenham received both the Charles Wintour Award 2007 and the Critics' Circle Award 2008 for Most Promising Playwright.

Bull Faber & Faber

Polly Stenham's explosive That Face, written at the age of nineteen, was staged at the Royal Court before transferring to London's West End. Tusk Tusk and No Quarter followed, also for the Royal Court. Her fourth play, Hotel, opened at the National Theatre. All four are contained in Plays 1, together with an introduction from the author. That Face 'One of the most astonishing debuts I have seen in more than 30 years.. In every respect this is a remarkable and unforgettable piece of theatre.' Daily Telegraph Tusk Tusk 'A cracking confirmation of Stenham's talent... [A] gripping, witty, sad play.' Financial Times No Quarter 'Stenham is that rare thing, a truly exciting writer... It is hard to envisage anything providing this kind of mainlining

thrill.' Evening Standard Hotel 'At its core, Hotel is about civilisation peeled down to savagery. And that is where Stenham is at her brutal, universal best.' Independent

The Book of Grace Faber & Faber

Ancient Greece, the Kingdom of Pisa. King Pelops has declared his bastard child Chrysippus heir to the throne. His queen Hippodamia convinces Pelops' rightful heirs, her sons Atreus and Thyestes, to kill their half-brother. So begins the infamous story of a deposed king who eats his own children, after being served them in a feast by his brother. In this modern version, reimagined by four young writers, the boundaries of Seneca's play have been blown out to encompass the matrix of killings in the original myth. A series of moments between atrocities, Thyestes explores the constant that has underpinned human nature across the centuries: that man is brutal, capable of anything. And in the spaces between the banal and the ordinary, terrifying acts occur.

The Glow Currency Press Pty Limited

The mid-seventies - and satin baggies and chunky platforms reigned supreme. Jethro Tull did battle with glam-rock for the airwaves. At an all-boys Catholic school in Melbourne, Timothy Conigrave fell wildly and sweetly in love with the captain of the football team. So began a relationship that was to last for 15 years, a love affair that weathered disapproval, separation and, ultimately death. Holding the Man recreates that relationship. With honesty and insight it explores the highs and lows of any partnership: the intimacy, constraints, temptations. And the strength of heart both men had

to find when they tested positive to HIV. This is a book as refreshing and uplifting as it is moving; a funny and sad and celebratory account of growing up gay.

That Face Faber & Faber

Once, elephants came in two colours: black or white. They loved all other creatures - but each set wanted to destroy the other. Peace-loving elephants ran and hid in the deepest jungle while battle commenced. The war-mongers succeeded: for a long time it seemed that there were no elephants in the world at all, not of any colour. But then the descendants of the peace-loving ones emerged from the jungle, and by now they were all grey. 'This book was one of my favourites as a kid, I simply relished in the gloriousness of a load of elephants battling it out in a bizarre forest. It wasn't until I was a bit older that I recognised the importance of the message that lay (not so subtly) underneath.' OLIVER JEFFERS

This House A&C Black

'Exquisite, powerful . . . I can think of no better way of commemorating British exploration's culminating triumph.' Simon Winchester? Coronation Everest offers a breathtakingly intimate evocation of the most famous of all mountaineering exploits - and of perhaps the last great old-fashioned Fleet Street scoop. 'It was Morris who broke the news that a British-led expedition had conquered Mount Everest the day before the Queen's coronation in 1953 . . . Allied to physical courage in getting down the mountain and a dogged resourcefulness in getting the news home, Morris scooped the world and was launched on one of the most remarkable literary careers in the second half of the twentieth century.' Guardian Jan Morris's collection of travel writing and reportage spans over five decades and includes such titles as Venice, Coronation Everest, Hong Kong, Spain, Manhattan '45, A Writer's World and the Pax Britannica Trilogy. Hav, her novel, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and the Arthur C. Clarke Award.

Holding the Man Penguin Group Australia

The Comedy Diva Diaries is the tale of a twenty-nine year old comedienne who gives herself an ultimatum: achieve success before her next birthday, or die trying. Our sassy, deluded and insecure heroine endures disastrous stand-up gigs and humiliating TV commercial auditions. Her rich boyfriend, pampered pooch, flamboyant agent, dysfunctional family and back-stabbing rivals aren't much help. On the brink of emotional collapse, Diva finds inspiration in a self-help book, and makes the fateful decision to move across the continent in pursuit of the Hollywood dream. Will Diva admit defeat? Or will she find fame and fortune before turning thirty? Hip and outrageously funny! As a young comedian, it's frightening how much I can relate. ~ Christel Bartelse, 2011& 2010 Canadian Comedy Award Nominee Van Ritzen is one of the funniest humans I've ever met. Read her book, laugh, lather, rinse, repeat. ~ Mark Leiren-Young, author of Never Shoot a Stampede Queen 2009 Leacock Medal For Humour Really, really funny. ~ Terry Fallis, author of The Best Laid Plans 2008 Leacock Medal For Humour You will root for Diva every step of the way. ~ Ian Ferguson, author of Village of the Small Houses 2004 Leacock Medal for Humour

Idomeneus Faber & Faber

Newsroom, political platform, local hot spot, confession box, preacher-pulpit and football stadium. For generations, African men have gathered in barber shops to discuss the world. These are places where the banter can be barbed and the truth is always telling. Barber Shop Chronicles, which was partly inspired by verbatim recordings, is a heart-warming, hilarious and insightful play that leaps from a barber shop in Peckham to Johannesburg, Harare, Kampala, Lagos and Accra over the course of a single day. It was first produced by the National Theatre, Frelimo and Leeds Playhouse in 2017 and is here published as a Methuen Drama Student Edition with commentary and notes by Oladipo Agboluaje.

The Duchess of Malfi Bloomsbury Publishing

The most controversial and newsworthy plays of British theatre are a rash of rude, vicious and provocative pieces by a brat pack of twentysomethings whose debuts startled critics and audiences with their heady mix of sex, violence and street-poetry. In-Yer-Face Theatre is the first book to study this exciting outburst of creative self-expression by what in other contexts has been called Generation X, or Thatcher's Children, the 'yoof' who grew up during the last Conservative Government. The book argues that, for example, Trainspotting, Blasted, Mojo and Shopping and F**king are much more than a collection of shock tactics - taken together, they represent a consistent critique of modern life, one which focuses on the problem of violence, the crisis of masculinity and the futility of consumerism. The book contains extensive interviews with playwrights, including Sarah Kane (Blasted), Mark Ravenhill (Shopping and F**king), Philip Ridley (The Pitchfork Disney), Patrick Marber (Closer) and Martin McDonagh (The Beauty Queen of Leenane).

Alfred and Emily Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

People find me. When it's dark. 1863. An asylum. A woman locked in a windowless cell, with no memory as to who she is, or how she arrived there. When spiritualist medium Mrs Lyall requires a new assistant, this nameless woman seems the perfect candidate. But as the woman's past begins to reveal itself, so do new powers neither are prepared for. Alistair McDowall's haunting new play The Glow was the 2018 Pinter Commission, an award given annually by Lady Antonia Fraser to support a new commission at the Royal Court Theatre. This edition was published to coincide with the world premiere at London's Royal Court Theatre in January 2022.

Coronation Everest Faber & Faber

I think my father's rage at the trenches took me over, when I was very young, and has never left me. Do children feel their parents' emotions? Yes, we do, and it is a legacy I could have done without. What is the use of it? It is as if that old war is in my own memory, my own consciousness. In this extraordinary book, the 2007 Nobel Laureate Doris Lessing explores the lives of her parents, each irrevocably damaged by the Great War. Her father wanted the simple life of an English farmer, but shrapnel almost killed him in the trenches, and thereafter he had to wear a wooden leg. Her mother,

Emily, spent the war nursing the wounded in the Royal Free Hospital after her great love, a doctor, drowned in the Channel. In the fictional first half of Alfred and Emily, Doris Lessing imagines the happier lives her parents might have made for themselves had there been no war; a story that begins with their meeting at a village cricket match outside Colchester. This is followed by a piercing examination of their relationship as it actually was in the shadow of the Great War, of the family's move to Africa, and of the impact of her parents' marriage on a young woman growing up in a strange land. "Here I still am," says Doris Lessing, "trying to get out from under that monstrous legacy, trying to get free." Triumphant, with the publication of Alfred and Emily, she has done just that.

Tusk Tusk Faber & Faber

John Webster was a later contemporary of Shakespeare, and The Duchess of Malfi, Webster's best known play, is considered among the best of the period. It appears to have been first performed in 1612-13 at the Blackfriars before moving on to the larger and more famous Globe Theatre, and was later published in 1623. The play is loosely based on a real Duchess of Amalfi, a widow who marries beneath her station. On learning of this, her brothers become enraged and vow their revenge. Soon the intrigue, deceit, and murders begin. Marked by the period's love of spectacular violence, each character exacts his revenge, and in turn suffers vengeance at the hands of others. Coming after Shakespeare's equally sanguine Hamlet and Kyd's The Spanish Tragedy, Webster's The Duchess of Malfi brings to a close the era of the great Senecan tragedies of blood and revenge. As the Jacobean period progressed, the spectacle became more violent and dark, reflecting the public's growing dissatisfaction with the corruption of King James' court.

Death of England Northwestern University Press

A new play by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Topdog/Underdog.

Polly Stenham: Plays 1 Faber & Faber

Considered by many to be the finest Irish writer now working in prose, John McGahern's That They May Face the Rising Sun vividly brings to life a whole world and its people with insight and humour and deep sympathy. Joe and Kate Rutledge have come to Ireland from London in search of a different life. In passages of beauty and truth, the drama of a year in their lives and those of the memorable characters that move about them unfolds through the action, the rituals of work, religious observances and play. By the novel's close we feel that we have been introduced, with deceptive simplicity, to a complete representation of existence - an enclosed world has been transformed into an Everywhere. 'It is a simple and ordinary story, calmly, wryly crafted with subtle detail - and therein lies McGahern's genius. As sharply, brilliantly observed as any he has written . . . McGahern, a supreme chronicler of the ordinary . . . has created a novel that lives and breathes as convincingly as the characters who inhabit it.' Irish Times

Julie iUniverse

One of the greatest classics of modern theater concerns a willful young aristocrat's seduction of her father's valet during a Midsummer's Eve celebration. Complete with Strindberg's highly-regarded critical preface.

That They May Face the Rising Sun Random House

This vicious comedy is an allegorical deathmatch between business colleagues—full of bizarre power plays and one-upmanship—wherein one of three employees is allegedly going to be fired. The odds against our protagonist are stacked from the outset: rumple-faced sad-sack Thomas never quite gets his footing against opponents Tony, a shark in wolf's clothing, and Isobel, a snaky number with a talent for undermining. In savvy fashion, Mike Bartlett's BULL caters to our baser instincts.

Tusk Tusk Harper Collins

Wild and newly single, Julie throws a late night party. In the kitchen, Jean and Kristina clean up as the celebration heaves above them. Crossing the threshold, Julie initiates a power game with Jean. It descends into a savage fight for survival. Polly Stenham reimagines August Strindberg's Miss Julie in contemporary London. Julie premiered at the National Theatre, London, in May 2018.

Comedians Dramatic Publishing

This House explores Westminster and the 1974 hung parliament through a combination of dialogue, comedy and political comment; and historical and contemporary concerns.

Bacon in Moscow Bloomsbury Publishing

You were brought up on mythology. Hollow mythology. That's why you're all stuck, all angry, a prince in the wrong story. A prince with a black eye. Fleeing a world he has rejected, Robin finds solace in his music and the sanctuary of his remote family home. But as his kingdom begins to crumble around him, how far will he go to save it and at what cost? Polly Stenham's No Quarter premiered at the Royal Court Theatre, London, in January 2013.

Miss Julie Bloomsbury Publishing

Sad single teachers get together. Drink tequila, get very pissed and reveal secrets and then stagger home at four in the morning, with some dim light in your brain saying "Shit. Year seven first lesson." David Eldridge's Under the Blue Sky premiered at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Upstairs, London, in September 2000. Methuen's Royal Court Writers Series was launched in 1981 to celebrate 25 years of the English Stage Company and 21 years since the publication of the first Methuen Modern Play. Published to coincide with specific productions in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs and the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs, the series fulfils the dual role of programme and playscript.

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