



N. F. Simpson: Collected Plays: A Resounding Tinkle; The Hole; Gladly Otherwise; One Way Pendulum; The Cresta Run; Was He Anyone?; If So, Then Yes

By N. F. Simpson

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N. F. Simpson was one of the leading exponents of the theatre of the absurd, and is best known for his play *A Resounding Tinkle*, made famous by its premiere at the Royal Court in 1957, and later to star Peter Cook. But beyond that he was a major force in the satire boom of the sixties, and wrote much exceptional comedy for film and TV for the likes of John Cleese, Beryl Reid, Hattie Jacques and Eric Sykes, as well as a number of brilliantly funny plays for theatre, which starred big names such as Harold Pinter and Kenneth Williams. His influence on everyone from Peter Cook's much-loved character E. L. Wisty to *Monty Python's Flying Circus* helped spawn a generation of incredible comic talent.

Plays included in the collection are *A Resounding Tinkle*, *The Hole*, *Gladly Otherwise*, *One Way Pendulum*, *The Cresta Run*, *Was He Anyone?* and his final work, *If So, Then Yes*, first performed in 2010.

This collection celebrates the work of this lost comic genius, and seeks to put his reputation back at the heart of British - and world - comedy.

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Editorial Review

Review

'I am ready to burn my boats and pronounce N.F. Simpson the most gifted comic writer the English stage has discovered since the war.' Kenneth Tynan, 1958 Kenneth Tynan 'Simpson emerges as a missing link in British humour. He fits in somewhere between Carroll and Shaw and the Monty Python gang.' Michael Billington, 1988 A RESOUNDING TINKLE 'Simpson makes his lunatic jokes by ringing endless changes on the bromides, non sequiturs and anti-climaxes with which human communication is so unhappily fraught.' Financial Times THE HOLE 'This is Simpson at his very best - the language and arrangement, formal, exact, full of vibration. It's highly comic, exhilarating.' -- Harold Pinter Observer IF SO THEN YES 'This play is a wonder - funny, beguiling, utterly original, unexpectedly profound and written by a playwright of 91.' -- Charles Spencer, 2010 Daily Telegraph

About the Author

Born in 1919, N. F. Simpson's works include A Resounding Tinkle (1957), The Hole (1957) and One Way Pendulum (1959), all of which premiered at the Royal Court Theatre, London. A Resounding Tinkle was revived in a sell-out production at the Donmar Warehouse in 2007. His last play If So, Then Yes premiered in 2010. Simpson wrote extensively for the BBC and ITV, including the hit Elementary, My Dear Watson, featuring John Cleese. In 2008, the BFI screened a season devoted to his work for film and television. N. F. Simpson died in 2011.

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