



**First World War Plays: Night Watches, Mine Eyes  
Have Seen, Tunnel Trench, Post Mortem, Oh  
What A Lovely War, The Accrington Pals, Sea and  
Land and Sky**

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# First World War Plays: Night Watches, Mine Eyes Have Seen, Tunnel Trench, Post Mortem, Oh What A Lovely War, The Accrington Pals, Sea and Land and Sky

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The First World War (1914–1918) marked a turning point in modern history and culture and its literary legacy is vast: poetry, fiction and memoirs abound. But the drama of the period is rarely recognised, with only a handful of plays commonly associated with the war.

*First World War Plays* draws together canonical and lesser-known plays from the First World War to the end of the twentieth century, tracing the ways in which dramatists have engaged with and resisted World War I in their works. Spanning almost a century of conflict, this anthology explores the changing cultural attitudes to warfare, including the significance of the war over time, interwar pacifism, and historical revisionism. The collection includes writing by combatants, as well as playwrights addressing historical events and national memory, by both men and women, and by writers from Great Britain and the United States.

Plays from the period, like *Night Watches* by Allan Monkhouse (1916), *Mine Eyes Have Seen* by Alice Dunbar-Nelson (1918) and *Tunnel Trench* by Hubert Griffith (1924), are joined with reflections on the war in *Post Mortem* by Noël Coward (1930, performed 1944) and *Oh What A Lovely War* by Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop (1963) as well as later works *The Accrington Pals* by Peter Whelan (1982) and *Sea and Land and Sky* by Abigail Docherty (2010).

Accompanied by a general introduction by editor, Dr Mark Rawlinson.

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