



Simon Gray: Plays 1: Butley; Wise Child; Dutch Uncle; Spoiled; Sleeping Dog

By Simon Gray

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Butley

'What is so wondrous about a play so basically defeatist and hurtful is its ability to be funny. The stark, unsentimental approach to the homosexual relationship, the cynical send-up of academic life, the skeptical view of the teacher-pupil associations are all stunningly illuminated by continuous explosions of sardonic, needling, feline, vituperative and civilised lines.' *Evening Standard*

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Simon Gray was born in 1936. He began his writing career with *Colmain* (1963), the first of five novels, all published by Faber. He is the author of many plays for TV and radio, also films, including the 1987 adaptation of J L Carr's *A Month in the Country*, and TV films including *Running Late*, *After Pilkington* (winner of the Prix Italia) and Emmy Award-winning *Unnatural Pursuits*. He wrote more than thirty stage plays amongst them *Butley* and *Otherwise Engaged* (which both received Evening Standard Awards for Best Play), *Close of Play*, *The Rear Column*, *Quartermaine's Terms*, *The Common Pursuit*, *Hidden Laughter*, *The Late Middle Classes* (winner of the Barclay's Best Play Award), *Japes*, *The Old Masters* (his ninth play to be directed by Harold Pinter) and *Little Nell*, which premiered at the Theatre Royal Bath in 2007, directed by Peter Hall. *Little Nell* was first broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 2006, and *Missing Dates* in 2008. In 1991 he was made BAFTA Writer of the Year. His acclaimed works of non-fiction are: *An Unnatural Pursuit*, *How's That for Telling 'Em*, *Fat Lady?*, *Fat Chance*, *Enter a Fox*, *The Smoking Diaries*, *The Year of the Jouncer*, *The Last Cigarette* and *Coda*. He was appointed CBE in the 2005 New Year's Honours for his services to Drama and Literature. Simon Gray died in August 2008.

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