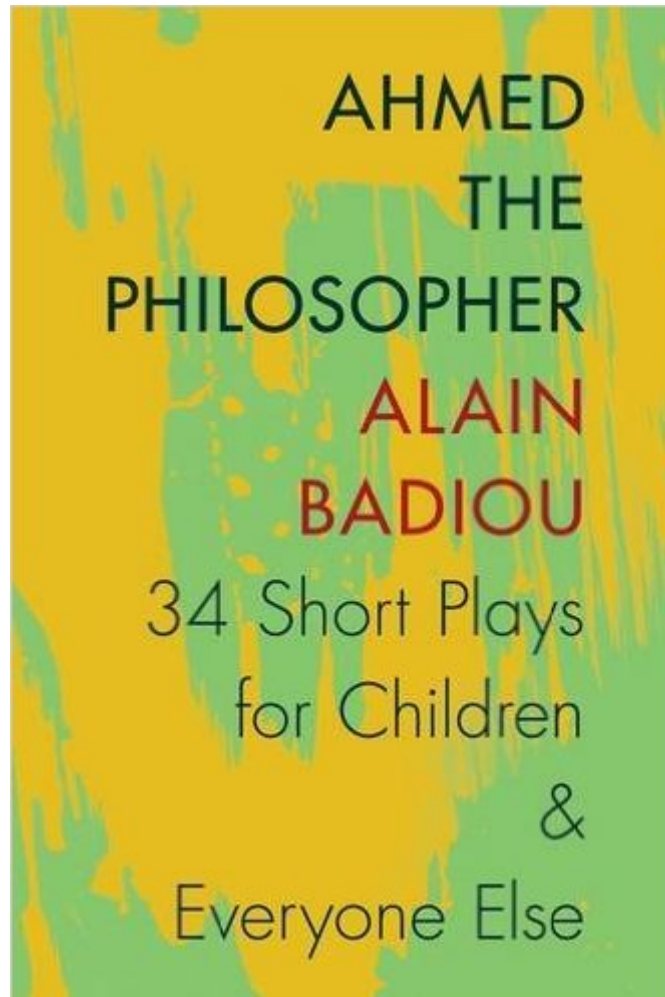


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Ahmed The Philosopher: Thirty-Four Short Plays For Children And Everyone Else



Synopsis

English-speaking readers might be surprised to learn that Alain Badiou writes fiction and plays along with his philosophical works and that they are just as important to understanding his larger intellectual project. In *Ahmed the Philosopher*, Badiou's most entertaining and accessible play, translated into English here for the first time, readers are introduced to Badiou's philosophy through a theatrical tour de force that has met with much success in France. *Ahmed the Philosopher* presents its comic hero, the "treacherous servant" Ahmed, as a seductively trenchant philosopher even as it casts philosophy itself as a comic performance. The comedy unfolds as a series of lessons, with each "short play" or sketch illuminating a different Badiouian concept. Yet Ahmed does more than illustrate philosophical abstractions; he embodies and vivifies the theatrical and performative aspects of philosophy, mobilizing a comic energy that exposes the emptiness and pomp of the world. Through his example, the audience is moved to a living engagement with philosophy, discovering in it the power to break through the limits of everyday life.

Book Information

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press (April 29, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231166931

ISBN-13: 978-0231166935

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.5 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,342,971 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #103 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Children's #264 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Deconstruction #2918 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts

Customer Reviews

This is philosophy to be staged theatrically. This is to say, this is philosophy to be performed. Full of humor and fun. Many traditional philosophical concepts are shed new light. Inherent significance of these concepts is uprooted. As the sub-title suggests, this is philosophy (actually, philosophies) for children. But this is in the sense that everyone of us should become children again by taking a fresh look on these things. Each play lasts for a few pages only and thus reading them is like watching

cartoon episodes. I wish that I can watch these plays live. I further wish that parents will tell these stories to their children, just to let them know that (as the author suggests) philosophy should be full of joy, and to do philosophy is to separate oneself from oneself, in other words, to transcend oneself.

Playwrights, actors, philosophers, teachers, and most importantly children should all read this text as soon as they can. It is so immense, so ceaselessly intense, and constantly hilarious. Badiou approaches philosophy as a necessary activity and one of the most tiring of activities available to human beings, but he never makes it less than joyful. Just as shouting dreams and glories to the heavens all day long will tire out your voice, this work of the laughing philosopher who pulls you along and makes you laugh until you think (and vice versa) makes the reader tired in the most important ways. Read these plays. Hear these plays. But always, always enjoy them.

Surprisingly hilarious!

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