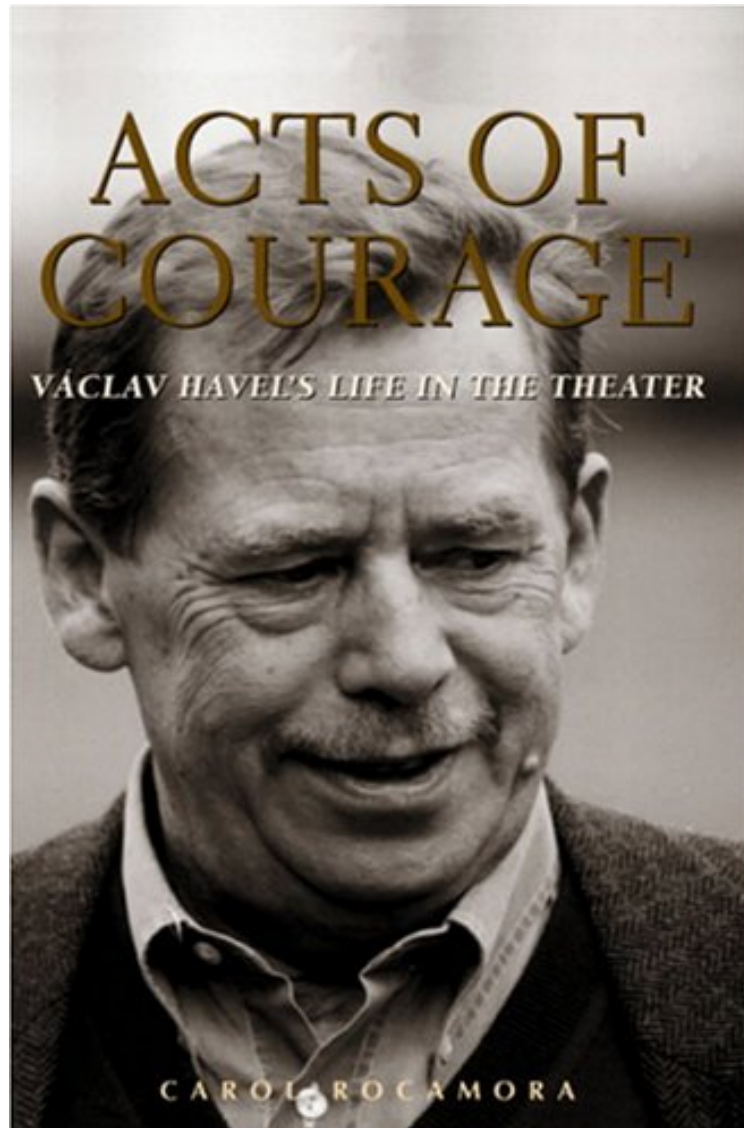


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## Acts of Courage: Vaclav Havel's Life in the Theater

Carol Rocamora

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**Carol Rocamora : Acts of Courage: Vaclav Havel's Life in the Theater** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Acts of Courage: Vaclav Havel's Life in the Theater:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Kenexcellent copy and service4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Havel Gets His Eric BentleyBy J. A. BallThis is exactly the kind of book that Havel (as playwright) has long merited in the English-speaking world. True, most theatre academics will be disappointed by Rocamora's choice not to theorize Havel's plays too much. (Although she teaches at NYU, there is no trace of

"performance studies" in her approach.) On the contrary, what we have here is a study in an older key. It is a book of appreciation that patiently contextualizes Havel's work within three frameworks: the aesthetic issues surrounding modern drama, Czech political history and Havel's biographical journey. The research here is excellent, and her writing is a pleasure. Havelphiles in general will want to read this book. But theatre artists with an itch to work on Havel should consider this study to be obligatory reading.

A unique interweaving of the influences of politics and theater revealed in a spellbinding narrative of the life of Vclav Havel during Czechoslovakias struggle for freedom. Vclav Havel dissident, activist, essayist, philosopher, politician, founder and president of the Czech Replublicis known throughout the world as a hero of the human rights movement and martyr for the "right to write" (he was imprisoned many times under Communism in his country). But few in the West know that he is also his countrys most famous playwright. This book tells the dramatic story of his life in the theater during three dark decades under Communism and the extreme risks that he and many other took to perform his works. Havels ten full-length plays and eight one-acts are also discussed plays that not only tell the story of his country but also helped to change it, plays that have a significant place in twentieth-century world drama. For those who love the theater, his story is a powerful and moving one about what it means to be a playwright, a story wherein writing for the theater is an act of courage.

"..an essential book for anybody interested not only in Havels life and personal journey but also in making clear..." -- Edward Albee "A book worth reading, about a man worth listening to." -- Milos Forman "Havels voice has moved the worlds political characters to listen to its human appeal for compassion and peace." -- Elie Wiesel..addresses his work in theater in detail, along with his relationships with other writers, and his legacy as a playwright. -- Book News, May 2005..the plays tell not only the story of Havels country, but also how his work shaped and changed it. -- Bryn Mawr Alumnae Bulletin, Fall 2005 Adopting a fragmented, chronological arrangement, Rocamora divides her discussion of Havel's life into five decades paralleling Czechoslovakia's history. -- Choice Magazine, July 2005 This first major English-language study on Havel as a playwright is highly recommended for academic and larger public libraries. -- Library Journal, May 2005 From the Inside Flap Vaclav Havel dissident, human rights activist, essayist, philosopher, politician, founder, and president of the Czech Republic is known throughout the world as a hero of the human rights movement and martyr for the "right to write" (he was imprisoned many times under communism in his country). But few of us in the West know that he is also his countrys most famous dramatist. In fact, his presidency has eclipsed his playwriting. This book tells the dramatic story of his life in the theater during three dark decades under communism, and the extreme risks that he and many others took to put on his plays. The book also discusses his ten full-length plays and eight one-acts plays that not only tell the story of his country but also helped to change it. For those of us who work in the theater, his story is a powerful and moving one about what it means to be a playwright, a story wherein writing for the theater is an act of courage. About the Author Carol Rocamora is the founder of the Philadelphia Festival theatre for New Plays and is currently on the faculty of the Tisch School of the Arts in New York University. She is the translator of Chekhov Volume I: Four Plays, Chekhov: The Early Plays, and Chekhovs Vaudevilles, and she has written a play called, "I take your hand in mine", which was suggested by the letters of Anton Chekhov and Olga Knipper, all published by Smith and Kraus.