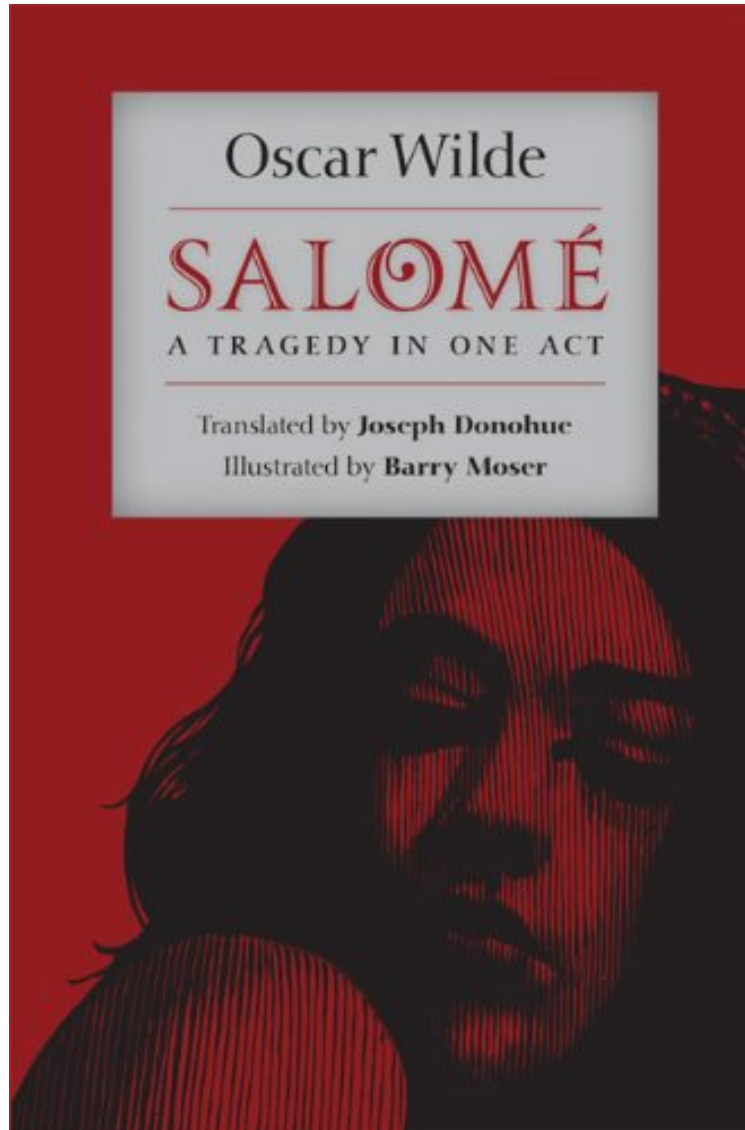


[FREE] Salom: A Tragedy in One Act

Salom: A Tragedy in One Act

Oscar Wilde

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Oscar Wilde : Salom: A Tragedy in One Act before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Salom: A Tragedy in One Act:

Unique among his works, Oscar Wildes play Salom (1893) was written originally in French. Joseph Donohues new translation of the horrific New Testament story has recast Wildes shockingly radical drama in the natural idiomatic language of our own day. Presenting a colloquial and spare American English version of Wildes consciously stylized

French, Donohue's approach gives full value to the Irish authors' dark ruminations on evil and perversity in a world on the brink of a new, unsettling Christian dispensation. The play was first translated into English in 1894 by Wilde's young friend Lord Alfred Douglas, but Wilde was far from pleased with the outcome. And yet Douglas's stilted, inaccurate version has somehow retained a long-standing place on the stage and in the study. Donohue's lucid vernacular transformation of Douglas's safe, thee-and-thou faux-biblical language has the quality of a startling modern-dress remounting of an overly familiar classic play. This new Salome is calculated to bring both readers and playgoers into close, disturbing confrontation with one of the most erotic and bloodiest sequences of testamentary lore. Brilliantly complementing Donohue's unprecedented approach is a set of engravings by a master illustrator of our time. Barry Moser is an artist who speaks the blunt yet fluent language of present-day communication through the penetrating gestural vocabulary of the graphic arts. The resulting combination of words and images directly engages with Wilde's characters and their story, setting a bold new standard for the melding of literary and pictorial excellence. At the same time, it leads readers and audiences alike to rediscover perennially significant themes of love, death, power, and individuality. A signed and numbered limited edition is available for \$100.00.

This is an impressive achievement, rendering into clear and effective modern English an important play not well served by the standard translation. The effect is not unlike that of seeing a painting that has been restored. In the words of Miss Prism, it has been a great inconvenience being without it all these years. (Russell Jackson, Allardyce Professor of Drama, University of Birmingham) Donohue has set himself the task of rendering Wilde's French tragedy in 'an up-to-date, colloquial yet spare English translation' that could be performed on stage today. His work reads smoothly, and he's breathed life back into the play... The ominous Barry Moser engravings also establish the time and place mercifully free of a single Beardsley peacock feather. Shelf Talker: A smooth, effective translation of the infamous 1893 Oscar Wilde play, accompanied by a fascinating essay on the play's history, its successes and scandals. (Shelf Awareness) About the Author Joseph Donohue is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and coeditor of an award-winning critical edition of Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Barry Moser is Irwin and Pauline Alper Professor of Art at Smith College and the illustrator of numerous works of literature, including celebrated editions of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *The Holy Bible*.