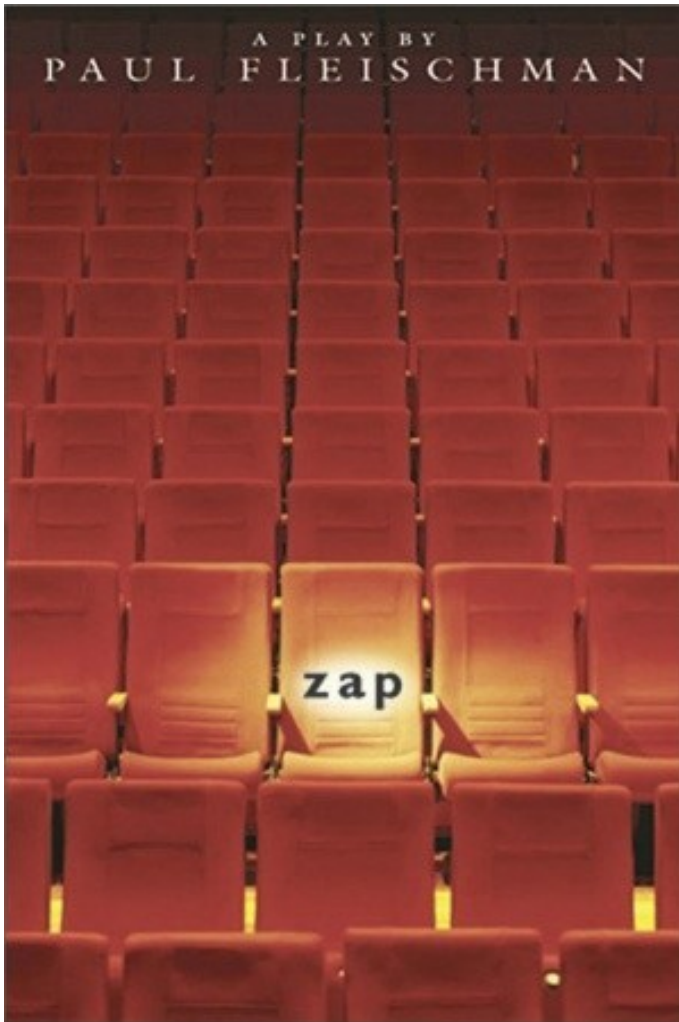

Paul Fleischman

Zap: A Play



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Description

Aimed at a generation of short attention spans and a taste for razor-sharp comedy, the rapid-fire ZAP is a smart, farcical new play for high-school students that's ready to bring the house down.

When they're not dusting off the old classics — over and over — high-school drama departments are constantly in search of new material. But what play could possibly suit the point-and-click attention spans of kids born with remote controls in their cribs? Cue the lights for ZAP, a nonstop farce that juxtaposes seven different plays — performed simultaneously — with a comic genius reminiscent of masters from Monty Python to the Marx Brothers. Combining spot-on parodies of Anton Chekhov, Agatha Christie, Tennessee Williams, Samuel Beckett, Neil Simon and performance art and throwing in scenes from RICHARD III for good measure, ZAP flicks rapidly back and forth from play to play, with hilarious results. As characters from one play end up on the set of another, their befuddlement, exasperation, and brave attempts at improvisation are truly priceless. A hoot to read, ZAP is a dream to perform — as high schools in California, New York, and Florida have already discovered.

Insightful reviews

04brandonr: This play write was a very interesting one. With its rapid changes in plays, it was a little hard to follow. This play consisted of 7 total plays within. At the beginning the house manager reads a monologue explaining some theater etiquette, such as turning off cell phones and no flash photography, then proceeds to tell the audience to feel free to use their remotes in their seat to change the play whenever they wanted. The first play is an "English Mystery", a play based in the 1960's in a big house, the characters of this play are Emmaline the house owner and Beaton the butler. They are getting ready for a party with Clifford the guest of honor and also Emmaline's husband, and other guests who are, inspector Swift, and COL.Hardwicke. The second play that this play write has in it, is "The Comedy". This play is about an writer (Irv) who has come down with writers block. He had recently read a play by Krupfeld who has stolen Irv's family story. With Irv knowing this he plans for revenge and plans to steal Krupfeld's wife from him. Helping Irv is Sammy who is Irv's friend. The third play in this story is Shakespeare's Richard the III. In this play Lady Annes husband was murdered and Gloucester thinks he knows who kills him, he thinks it is Edward who had murdered him. The fourth play introduced is "The Russian Play". This play is set in the 1870's, Irina is arguing with Nickolai about staying in his hometown to learn the ways of his ancestors and learn to farm as they did but Irina doesn't like this idea. The fifth play is "The Performing Art Monologue" in this play Marsha is the only character and her character is basically an audience member who is commenting and reviewing the plays and giving information about her own life. The sixth play in this book is "The Avant-Garde Play" which is about a man and a woman in a hotel room and when they get settled they realize there is a dead man in the room, this play consists of the man and woman trying to find out what to do about the body. The seventh play in this book is "The Southern Play". This play is about a southern family gathering. Aaron Puckett the main character and Raginald his father. They are all gathered at Grandmammy's house and waiting for Luke (Aarons stepbrother). The play starts off with Aaron and his father fighting about how Aaron feels about their family and how he wants to move to New York City. When Luke arrives he talks and shares about his

addiction with raising fish.

This Play was by far the most confusing and interesting piece of literature I have ever read.

Kathleen: Eh. A good idea, but I don't think the execution did it any favors. I did enjoy Richard III being Offended though-- that was good.

Michael Earp: This is a play that is hilarious to read. I would love to see it performed one day.

The Avant-Garde play is WONDERFUL! Had me laugh out loud every time it was zapped on stage.

Shakira: I used to be pressured to learn it while I used to be within the college play yet I am joyful I did, it really is amazing and so interesting

Grace: I assumed this play used to be FANTASTIC. It used to be so humorous and it provides extra layers and dimensions than so much plays. It jogged my memory many of the play, "Noises Off." It has this amazing suggestion up until eventually everything is going thoroughly and hilariously wrong. I learned this in a day. I looked at it from my university library and had it complete via the top of the college day. I simply could not depart it out of my sight. So naturally, I used to be secretly studying it lower than the desk! This was once magnificent and will be an grand production! It should glance nice on a stage!

Munro's Kids: it is a play! Actually, extra like seven performs all bundled into one. Fleischman wrote this script simply because excessive colleges have so few offerings of their arsenal and appear forever to be appearing Grease. (As a survivor of Grease, I thank him profoundly) Though no longer a playwright himself, Fleischman indicates he is aware his methods round a number of of the massive play genres or styles: Shakespeare, darkish Americana, British homicide mystery, avant-guard, Checkovian, American comedy, and the fashionable monologue. He units up seven performs during this style, yet has the viewers it seems that "Zap" among them with distant controls as one could surf television channels. necessarily the disruption turns to chaos and hilarity ensues. as with all play, this is often conveyed to a point at the page, yet will be ten occasions greater in performance. I'd really like to see this performed. I may see drama lecturers loving it. in the textual content and in his endnotes Fleischman presents loads of details at the genres he's sending up, and it might be a very good educating software in addition to a enjoyable piece to perform. My major challenge is simply that it dates itself so seriously with the channel changer motif: does somebody nonetheless surf channels anymore? Will kids comprehend this? and the way can his "Zap" noise now not sound cheesy? possibly others might be capable of visualize this larger - all I will be able to listed here are reasonable and overdone electronic noises produced within the 80s!-Kirsten

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