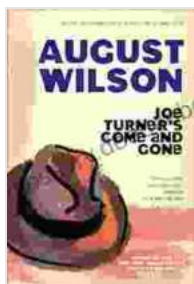


Joe Turner Come and Gone: An In-Depth Exploration of August Wilson's Masterpiece

Joe Turner Come and Gone, written by August Wilson in 1986, is a powerful and moving play that explores the complexities of African American identity, memory, and the healing power of storytelling. Set in Pittsburgh in 1911 during the height of the Great Migration, the play tells the story of a group of characters who are searching for a sense of belonging and purpose in a rapidly changing world. Through its vivid characters, poignant dialogue, and rich historical context, Joe Turner Come and Gone offers a profound meditation on the human condition and the enduring power of the human spirit.



Joe Turner's Come and Gone: A Play in Two Acts

by August Wilson

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1107 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 112 pages



Characters

The play features a cast of unforgettable characters, each of whom embodies a different facet of the African American experience.

* **Bynum Walker** is a charismatic con man and spiritual healer who claims to have the ability to connect people with their lost loved ones. * **Seth Holly** is a young man who is searching for his father, who disappeared during the Great Migration. * **Molly Cunningham** is a young woman who is haunted by the memories of her past and is searching for a new beginning. * **Joe Turner** is a mysterious figure who represents the promise and the danger of the unknown.

Plot

The play follows the characters as they search for Joe Turner, who they believe can help them find their lost loved ones or heal their broken hearts. Along the way, they encounter a range of obstacles, including poverty, racism, and the harsh realities of life in a rapidly changing city. Through their struggles, they learn the importance of community, resilience, and the power of storytelling to overcome adversity.

Themes

Joe Turner Come and Gone explores a range of complex themes, including:

* **Identity**: The characters in the play are all searching for a sense of identity in a world that is constantly changing. They are grappling with their past, their present, and their future, and they are trying to find a place where they belong. * **Memory**: The play also explores the power of memory and the way that it can shape our lives. The characters in the play are all haunted by their past experiences, and they are trying to find a way to come to terms with them. * **Storytelling**: Storytelling is a central theme in the play. The characters in the play use stories to connect with each other, to heal their wounds, and to make sense of their world.

Historical Context

Joe Turner Come and Gone is set in Pittsburgh in 1911, during the height of the Great Migration. The Great Migration was a period of mass migration of African Americans from the rural South to the industrial North. This migration had a profound impact on American society, and it is reflected in the play's characters and themes.

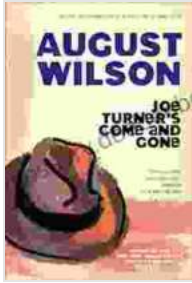
The play also explores the racism and discrimination that African Americans faced in the early 20th century. The characters in the play are all struggling to overcome the barriers that were placed in their way, and they are fighting for a better future for themselves and their children.

Analysis

Joe Turner Come and Gone has been hailed by critics as a masterpiece of American theater. The play has won numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play. It has been performed around the world and has been adapted into a film.

The play's success is due in part to its powerful characters, its poignant dialogue, and its rich historical context. Wilson's writing is lyrical and evocative, and his characters are complex and fully realized. The play's themes are universal and timeless, and they continue to resonate with audiences today.

Joe Turner Come and Gone is a powerful and moving play that explores the complexities of African American identity, memory, and the healing power of storytelling. The play's vivid characters, poignant dialogue, and rich historical context make it a must-see for anyone interested in American theater or history.



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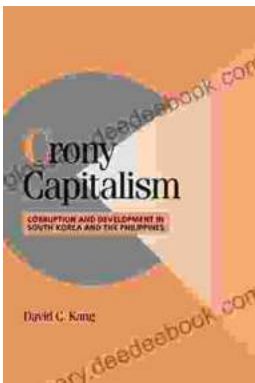
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