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# The Best American Short Plays 2008-2009



## Synopsis

(Best American Short Plays). Applause is proud to continue the series that for over 60 years has been the standard of excellence for one-act plays in America. From its inception, The Best American Short Plays has identified new, cutting-edge playwrights who have gone on to establish award-winning careers, including Tennessee Williams, Edward Albee, Wendy Wasserstein, Terrence McNally, and David Mamet. The complex and diverse plays that make up this collection reflect both personal concerns and social issues. The 2008-2009 edition includes *A Second of Pleasure* , by Neil LaBute; *St. Francis Preaches to the Birds* , by David Ives; *The Stormy Waters*, *The Long Way Home* , by Carey Lovelace; *Early Morning* , by Eric Lane; *Sisters* , by Adam Kraar, Maria Filimon, and Tasnim Mansur; *Little Duck* , by Billy Aronson; *A Portrait of the Woman as a Young Artist* , by Meg Miroshnik; *Slapped Actress* , by Emily Conbere; *The Last Artist in NYC* , by Polly Frost and Ray Sawhill; *THE TRUE AUTHOR* of the plays formerly attributed to Mister William Shakespeare REVEALED to the world for the first time by Miss Delia Bacon , by James Armstrong; *The Lovers and Others of Eugene O'Neill* , by Marla Del Collins; *III* , by Joe Salvatore; *Pete & Joe at the Dew Drop Inn* , by Lewis Gardner; *Decades Apart* , by Rick Pulos; *508* , by Amy Herzog; and *Naked Old Man* , by Murray Schisgal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Barbara Parisi is Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies at Long Island University's

Brooklyn campus. She founded and is the executive director of the nonprofit Ryan Repertory Company at the Harry Warren Theatre in Brooklyn, New York.

This is a fantastic collection of the best one-act plays from very talented and expressive American playwrights. Highlights include Joe Maruzzo's wonderfully poignant "Bricklayers Poet," the witty and vulnerable "The Perfect Relationship" by Jill Elaine Hughes, and Cary Pepper's challenging and confrontational "House of the Holy Moment." As good as all the plays are, the very best is Jay Huling's bombastic and laugh-out-loud funny "Elvis of Nazareth." Huling places his Elvis Presley in a biblical fantasy that manages to show both reverence and near-blasphemy in almost the same breath. Other impressive playwrights in this work include Murray Schisgal, who wrote the screenplay for the motion picture "Tootsie," Theodore Mann, who co-founded New York's famous Circle in the Square Theatre, and the often-produced and multi-award winning Laura Shaine. All of these plays -- from Jay Huling's "Elvis of Nazareth" to Jeni Mahoney's very witty "Light" would make an excellent evening of theatre that would entertain and inspire audiences. At the very least, it's an enjoyable and easy read.

Every one of these short plays hits a homerun in their own way. And they all need only a small cast, have uncomplicated sets, and offer very good roles for men and women. Outstanding works by Adam Kraar, Michael Roderick, and Rick Pulos. "Elvis of Nazareth" by Jay Huling was very funny, and I got to meet Mr. Huling at the Tennessee Stage Company when they were producing one of his more well-known comedies. If you are looking for plays that are a quick read, offer a variety of comedy and drama, and have a freshness from the most cutting-edge voices in American theatre, this book is a great choice.

"The Last Artist in NYC" was outstanding! Now I look for any writings by Ray Sawhill and Polly Frost. They are great!

A great series of books...useful for anyone looking for short plays.

Another good collection. I liked Eileen Fischer's Perfect Medium, on a "revival" of Oscar Wilde.

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