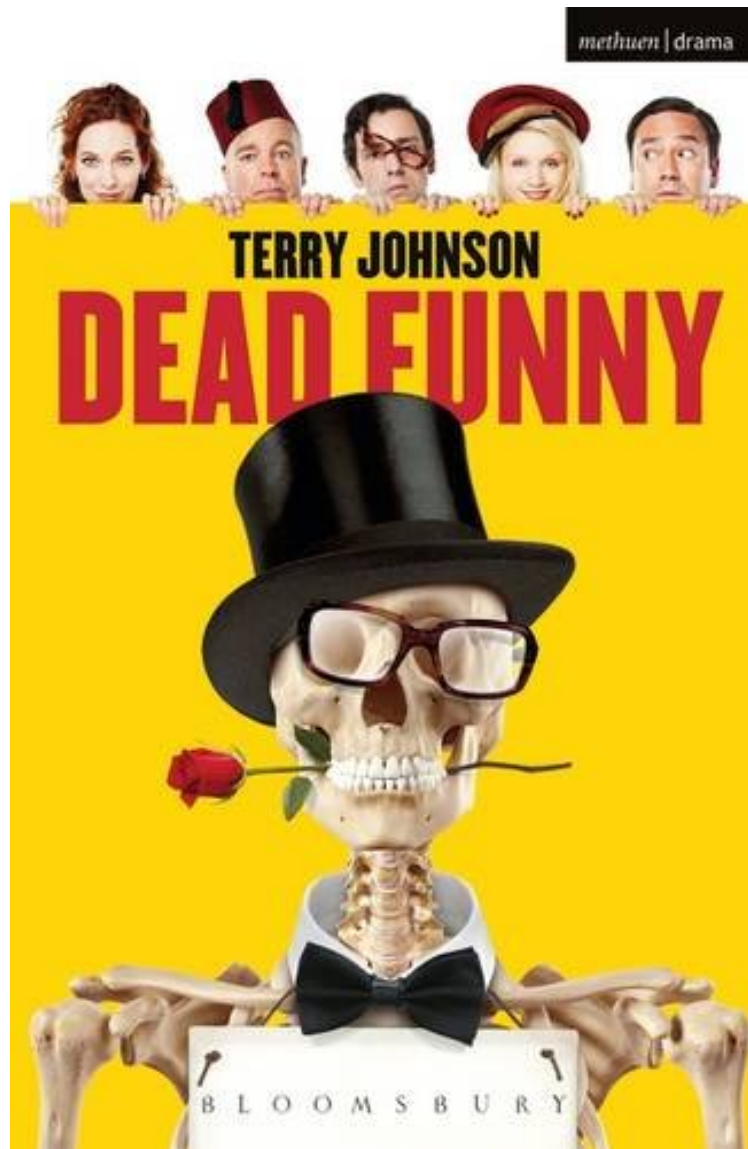


(Free download) Dead Funny (Modern Plays)

Dead Funny (Modern Plays)

Terry Johnson

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#2339012 in Books Bloomsbury Methuen Drama 2016-11-17 2016-11-17 Original language: English 7.81 x .1 x 5.061, #File Name: 1350032255112 pages Bloomsbury Methuen Drama | File size: 29.Mb

Terry Johnson : Dead Funny (Modern Plays) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dead Funny (Modern Plays):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. FUN AND GAMES By MOVIE MAVENTerry Johnson is one of the finest playwrights working today. If he is not as well known in the USA as he is in his native England, it is just that his plays have not travelled to Broadway where, I believe, they would be instant "new classics." DEAD FUNNY is a brilliant dissection of two rotting marriages, friends who come together in the fan club they've created for the British

"low" comedians who create laughter by pretending to be silly, sex-starved clowns. Perhaps the American equivalent would be Rodney Dangerfield, Lou Costello, Red Skelton or today's Adam Sandler...not the brainy, quick-witted stand-ups like Seinfeld or Joy Behar. It's a memorial service for Benny Hill which provides the setting for DEAD FUNNY. The hosts, Eleanor and Richard, a 30-something husband and wife who have long ago substituted excoriating wit for affection and their friends, Lisa and Nick, who seemingly have a happy, fulfilled family life, joined by their older, buffoonish friend, Brian for an evening of fun and games. This is a terribly funny, sad, bitter, hysterical, shocking play which deserves as big an audience in this country as it had in London during its long and very successful run.
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

In spite of my desperation I have been patient, in spite of my bewilderment I have been understanding, in spite of my feeling of utter abandonment ... I've been hanging on in there. Trying to help you come through this terrible thing. While Eleanor wants a child, her willing partner, Richard, is too busy running the Dead Funny Society. But in a week when British comedy heroes Frankie Howard and Benny Hill both kick the bucket, the society gather for a celebration, which promises to be full of hilarity and laughter well, for everybody except the disgruntled Eleanor anyhow. Terry Johnson's hilarious comedy of mortality and marriage was premiered at the Hampstead Theatre in January 1994. This edition was published for the West End revival in October 2016 at the Vaudeville Theatre, London.

"A blazing theatrical event, a single piece of stunning energy and invention, Johnson combines wild laughter with terrible pain. At times you're not sure whether the tears running down your cheeks are because the piece is so funny or because it is so sad" - Daily Telegraph
"Johnson has written another dazzlingly equivocal piece: one that questions the dubious sexual values of the great English drolls while invoking their hallowed memories and methods ... He pushes the frontiers of farce into areas of real pain ... An exhilarating play that is part custard-pie tragedy, part inquiring elegy for a vanishing music-hall tradition based on the principle that a dirty mind is a joy forever" - Guardian
From the Back Cover
The death of Benny Hill provides the impetus for this comedy about impotence, sex therapy and the English sense of humour. Eleanor wants what Richard won't give her. Richard wants to be left in peace. Benny would rather rest in peace, but for tonight, at least, his fans won't let him.
About the Author
Terry Johnson's work as a playwright includes a version of Edward Ravenscroft's *The London Cuckolds*, *Dead Funny*, and *Hysteria*. He is the recipient of major British theatre awards including Playwright of the Year 1995; Critics' Circle Best New Play 1995; Writers' Guild Best West End Play 1995; Olivier Award Best Comedy 1994; the Meyer-Whitworth Award 1993; and the John Whiting Award 1991. He also won the 2010 Tony Award for Best Director of a Musical for his production of *La Cage aux Folles*. His play *Piano/Forte* premiered at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs in 2006 and, most recently, his play *Ken* premiered at the Hampstead Theatre Downstairs in April 2016.