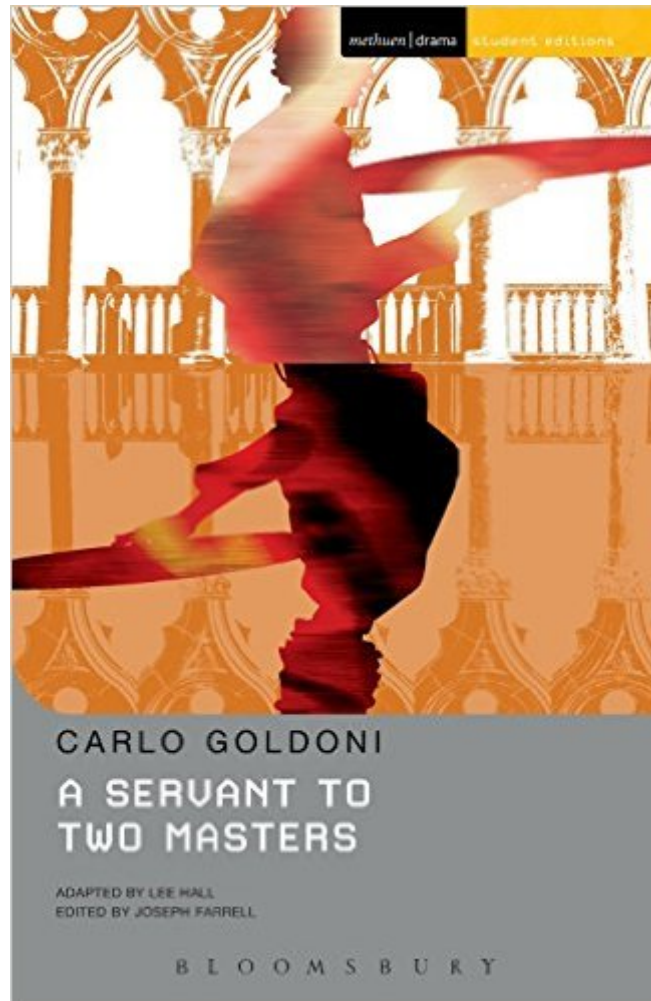


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A Servant To Two Masters (Student Editions)



Synopsis

This Student Edition of Goldoni's classic 18th century play, *A Servant to Two Masters*, features expert and helpful annotation, ideal for anyone studying or performing the play. Editor Joseph Farrell's accessible Introduction includes a plot synopsis, a commentary on the dramatic, social and political context, and on the themes, characters, language and structure of the play, as well a list of suggested reading, questions for further study and a review of performance history. The play revolves around the wily, greedy servant Truffaldino, who in trying to fill both his purse and his stomach, attempts to serve two masters simultaneously. Meanwhile, his mistress disguises herself as her dead brother to claim the dowry from his bewildered, bereft fiancée. The plot is full of mishaps and mix-ups, confusions, disguises and mistaken identity, before the murder and entangled romances can be resolved. Lee Hall's contemporary, faithful version is fast-paced, funny and idiomatic. Updating the comedy for the reader and audience, this version is thoroughly accessible, whilst also portraying the plot's tricks and absurdities with comic flair.

Book Information

Series: Student Editions

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury Methuen Drama (November 8, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1408131056

ISBN-13: 978-1408131053

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,104,782 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > European > Italian #942 in Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > World Literature > European

Customer Reviews

I bought this script after seeing the delectable Yale Rep touring company's production of this in DC, summer 2012. I am a theatre director and I decided to direct it last fall at my arts program in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. I thought the commedia dell'arte, the masks and the stylized humor would be a great teaching point and also jive very fluently with Haitian arts and culture and Haitian performance tradition. I was correct on that point. However, the script was a little disappointing. The

script does mention this-- so perhaps this is my own fault-- but it was adapted for the Royal Shakespeare Company (I believe) and therefore, the translation is incredibly...British. Which is fine...but it was difficult for me to translate the gist of the jokes for my Haitian students. Ex: "That sad bugger gunna knock me eyes out!" (I exaggerate...but you get what I mean, highly specific language of the Cockney variety.) I remember while I was searching for a script that I wanted whichever translation the Yale Rep production used-- I was unable to find it on .com and time and money pushed me to purchase this one. I think it works fine for an English production. However, be warned, the humor is VERY British-specific and you find yourself in a tight spot trying to explain idioms like: "Oh sod off you bloody manky git!" to your actors. Therefore, 3 stars. On the bright side, what was extremely helpful for my students and I are the extensive notes, dramaturgy and character descriptions at the beginning of the text. I was able to run many rehearsals/ workshops with my students based on the textual support given in this script.

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