



Cock

By Mike Bartlett



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Mike Bartlett's punchy play takes a lively, candid look at one man's sexuality and the difficulties that arise when you realize you have a choice. With carefully poised dialectics, *Cock* explores ambivalence in love and human nature through a nexus of emotions, relations and choices. Stripping back the whole drama to its essential language only, this is a masterpiece of strong characters and well-crafted dialogue.

When John takes a break from his boyfriend, he accidentally meets the girl of his dreams. Filled with guilt and indecision, he decides there is only one way to straighten this out...

Publication of this play coincided with its world premiere at the Royal Court Theatre, London in November 2009.

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Editorial Review

Review

'a smart, prickly and rewarding view of sexual and emotional confusion... The writing is lubricious, sometimes grubby and in places savagely unpleasant. But it has a wounding authenticity.' Henry Hitchings, Evening Standard (London), 19.11.09 'Mike Bartlett's play is a sharp, witty study of a man helplessly torn between his longtime male partner and a loving woman. Barlett's theme, in fact, is less tortured bisexuality than the paralysing indecision that stems from not knowing who one really is.' Michael Billington, Guardian, 18.11.09 'brilliant and blackly hilarious' 'an equivalently brilliant and blackly hilarious feat of provocation' : 'I await Bartlett's next piece in a mock-sweat of unseemly anticipation' Paul Taylor, Independent, 23.11.09 'Barlett's cunning, intense contest yes, it's another tug-of-love' Michael Coveney, Whatsonstage, 19.11.09 'Terse, bold, blunt, emblematic of masculinity and, above all, sex, the word "cock" is also a British slang abbreviation for "cock and bull story", as in a succession of lies. Part of the excitement of Mike Bartlett's riveting new play is that it delivers on every one of those connotations.' David Benedict, Variety, 19.11.09

About the Author

Mike Barlett's debut, *My Child* (Royal Court, May 2007) saw him hailed by *The Stage* as 'one of the most exciting new talents to emerge in recent times'. He is a winner of the Old Vic New Voices Award for *Artefacts* (Bush Theatre), and is currently participating in the prestigious Pearson Playwrights Scheme. He won the Writer's Guild Tinniswood and Imison prizes for his radio play, *Not Talking*.

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