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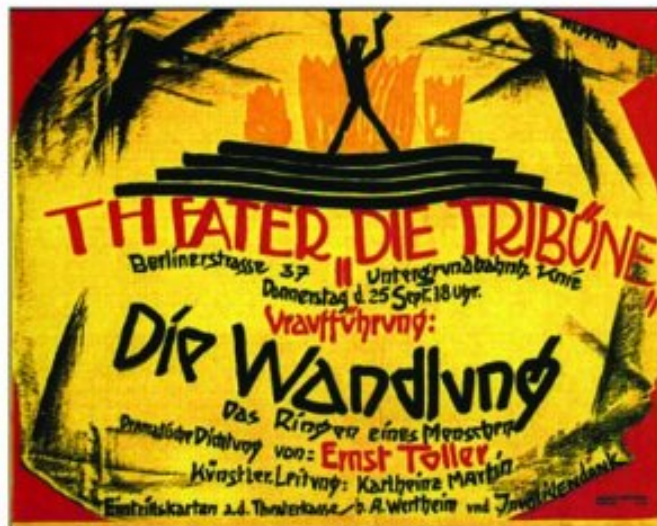
Cecil Davies

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THE PLAYS OF ERNST TOLLER

A REVALUATION

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Cecil Davies : The Plays of Ernst Toller: A Revaluation (Contemporary Theatre Studies) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Plays of Ernst Toller: A Revaluation (Contemporary Theatre Studies):

This book is the fullest and most detailed study yet published in English of Ernst Toller's plays and their most

significant productions. In particular the productions directed by Karl-Heinz Martin, Jurgen Fehling and Erwin Piscator are closely analyzed and the author demonstrates how, brilliant though they were, they obscured or even distorted Toller's intentions. The plays are seen as eminently stage-worthy while worth lies in Toller's use of language, both in prose and in verse. The neglected puppet-play *The Scorned Lovers' Revenge* is analyzed from a new perspective in the light, both of its language and its sexual theme, so important in Toller's writings as a whole. The reader is led to appreciate why Toller was regarded as the most outstanding German dramatist of his generation until, after his death in 1939 his reputation was overlaid by that of Brecht. This book should do much to restore Toller to his proper place in theatre history.