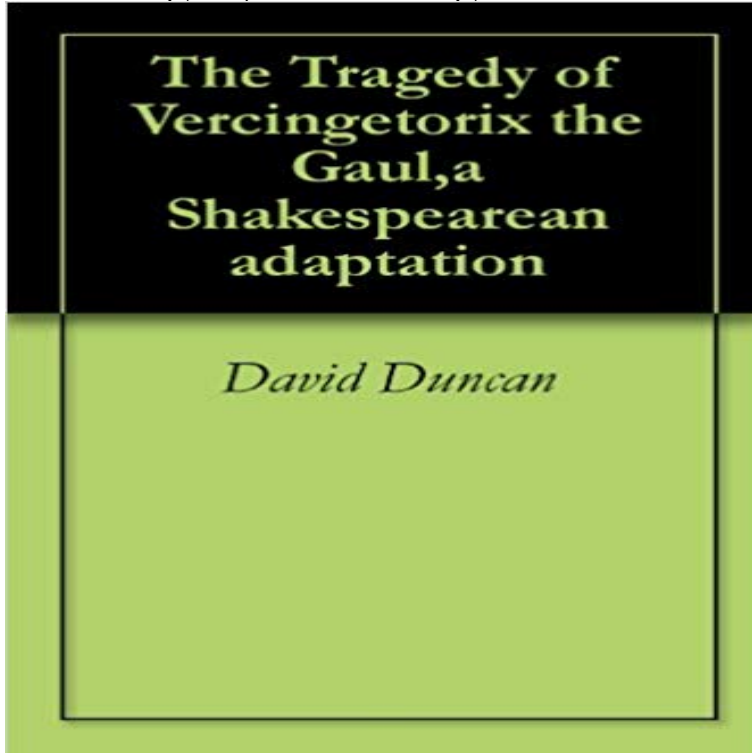


The Tragedy of Vercingetorix the Gaul,a Shakespearean adaptation



I have created a Shakespearean-style drama by blending together extracts from 26 of Shakespeares original dramas, some of his sonnets and a little of my own verse. The play is called The Tragedy of Vercingetorix the Gaul and is a full 5 act,19 scene drama with its overall theme being human rights abuses centering on the plight of child soldiers around the world. The drama has been designed with childrens physical and mental well-being in mind and was created in response to the above, in addition to the facts that there are two major problems for children regarding the dramatic works of William Shakespeare as follows :1. The sheer complexity of his drama.2. The comparative absence of children in his drama.As regards the first problem, the complexity of his drama has already been alleviated to some degree by authors such as Charles and Mary Lamb who translated many of Shakespeares original plays into modern standard English as well as the modern standard line-for-line translations by Spark Notes. However, even through these translations , the difficulty of the verse persists , as one must ultimately return to and engage with the original verse,especially in performance where the verse constructed in iambic pentameter must be spoken on the stage. In relation to the second difficulty, there isnt a lot that one can do to increase the presence of children in Shakespeares dramatic works as once the verse of Shakespeare has been changed, then they are no longer Shakespeare dramas, but rather Shakespearean-style dramas.The Tragedy of Vercingetorix the Gaul is a Shakespearean-style drama which involves children on a much more intimate level than any of Shakespeares original creations which usually cast children in very minor roles (Romeo and Juliet being the one exception, although even here the main characters are usually performed by adults

in professional productions). There are many roles for children in this drama, from the four major child characters of Julia, Messalina, Arviragus and Guiderius, who have an entire romantic scene to themselves, to child soldiers and beyond. This increased presence of children in a Shakespearean-style drama will hopefully increase the interest of children in Shakespeares original dramas as The Tragedy of Vercingetorix the Gaul would give them more parts to perform and this would perhaps increase their enjoyment of reading and performing Shakespeares original works. The play was reviewed in England by Mr Jon Dawson, who is the Editor-in-Chief of A Groat's Worth of Wit, a current Shakespeare journal published in England. The first time it was reviewed in the June 2009 edition (Vol 20, No 2), Mr Dawson wrote: "All the Shakespearean elements are there: death, war, comedy, intrigue and childish romance. After revision of the drama, it was submitted once again and it was described in the Dec, 2010 edition (Vol 21, No 4) as a fascinating blend of lines from many of the plays. Details of this quarterly can be obtained by visiting: The Open University Shakespeare Society (UK) at: www.ouss.org.uk/

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