



The Ecstasy of Rita Joe

George Ryga

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Rita Joe is a Native girl who leaves the reservation for the city, only to die on skid row as a victim of white men's violence and paternalistic attitudes towards First Nations peoples. As perhaps the best-known contemporary Canadian play and a poetic drama of enormous theatrical power, *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe* had a major influence in awakening consciousness to the "Indian problem" both in whites and Natives themselves.

Cast of five women and 15 men. With a preface by Chief Dan George.

The Ecstasy of Rita Joe premiered November 23, 1967 at the Vancouver Playhouse.

The Ecstasy of Rita Joe Details

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From Reader Review The Ecstasy of Rita Joe for online ebook

Jocelyn says

Read for my class on British Columbian literature.

The Ecstasy of Rita Joe is about a young First Nations girl who moves from the Caribou Country to the big city and encounters poverty, racism and alcoholism. Rita Joe, our protagonist, is then charged with multiple crimes, including prostitution and theft. She has to find people to vouch for her character in a certain amount of hours (I forget how many) or else she will go to jail.

Full review here on my BookLikes account.

Ellen says

I reread this play...it is still amazing...and sadly, still very relevant today.

Saranya says

very emotional and suffrings

Jeffrey says

so relevant still - heartbreakingly so

George says

good

Jaime says

Not my cup of tea. I had to read it for a class

Heather says

Read this after a university professor said to me in his office, "You're a regular Rita Joe." (Another example

of wrong assumption of my ethnicity see my review of "Boy, Snow, Bird") After I read it I was both deeply insulted by the prof's comment and at the same time deeply moved by the plight of Canadian Aboriginals, especially women. The idea of victim-hood as a product of both the self and society stays in my mind.

Tracy Morton says

I have never seen this play in production. It disturbed me but it also reminded me that life is like this for some people who don't live that far from me.

Dessa says

Some plays are easy to read and don't need to be seen. I think this one needs to be seen.
