Paul Whitfield White examines the interplay between theater and religion in provincial England from the early Tudors to 1660. In challenging the critical narrative of secularization, suppression, and demise, he recasts the history of that drama in the light of fresh sources and recent scholarship. The project engages with recent interests in Shakespearean criticism concerning the theatrical culture of the North of England, where a documented contemporary touring troupe performed Shakespeare’s plays in Catholic households. Defying the “medieval/Renaissance” divide of past drama/literature scholarship, the book begins in the early Tudor period, when parish revels flourished as part of a nationwide surge in religious fundraising and charity. It proceeds with the argument that the history of early modern theater in provincial society, as in London, remained vibrant and diverse for popular audiences in many parts of the country, and that religion contributed to that vitality and variety.

Drama and Religion in English Provincial Society, 1485–1660

Paul Whitfield White
for
Paula
and for
William and Isidore
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<td>ET</td>
<td>Early Theater</td>
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<td>JMEMS</td>
<td>Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies</td>
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<td>LSE</td>
<td>Leeds Studies in English</td>
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