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978-0-521-85669-0 - Drama and Religion in English Provincial Society, 1485-1660

Paul Whitfield White

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DRAMA AND RELIGION IN ENGLISH PROVINCIAL SOCIETY, 1485–1660

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.

PAUL WHITFIELD WHITE Specializes in Tudor/Stuart drama and literature. His previous publications include *Theatre and Reformation: Protestantism, Patronage, and Playing in Tudor England* (Cambridge, 1993), *Marlowe, History, and Sexuality: New Critical Essays on Christopher Marlowe* (1998), and *Shakespeare and Theatrical Patronage in Early Modern England* (Cambridge, 2002), co-edited with Suzanne R. Westfall.

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for
Paula
and for
William and Isidore

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<i>DNB</i>	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i> (2004 edition)
<i>EETS</i>	Early English Text Society
<i>ET</i>	<i>Early Theater</i>
<i>JMEMS</i>	<i>Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies</i>
<i>LSE</i>	<i>Leeds Studies in English</i>
<i>MRDE</i>	<i>Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England</i>
<i>MSC</i>	Malone Society Collections
<i>PRO</i>	Public Record Office
<i>PS</i>	Parker Society
<i>RD</i>	<i>Renaissance Drama</i>
<i>REED</i>	<i>Records of Early English Drama</i>
<i>RES</i>	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
<i>RORD</i>	<i>Research Opportunities in Renaissance Drama</i>
<i>SQ</i>	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>
<i>ShS</i>	<i>Shakespeare Survey</i>
<i>TFT</i>	Tudor Facsimile Texts
<i>VCH</i>	Victoria County History