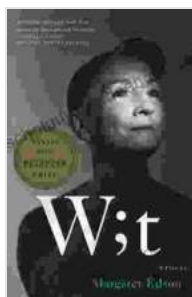


Wit Play Margaret Edson: An Unforgettable Theatrical Experience

Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Wit*, is a powerful and moving exploration of life, death, and the human spirit. First produced in 1995, the play has since been performed around the world, garnering critical acclaim and leaving a lasting impact on audiences. In this article, we will provide an in-depth analysis of *Wit*, examining its themes, characters, and language, and exploring its impact on audiences and critics alike.



Wit: A Play by Margaret Edson

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 313 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 99 pages

Paperback : 62 pages

Item Weight : 6.1 ounces

Dimensions : 7 x 0.14 x 10 inches



Themes

One of the central themes of *Wit* is the inevitability of death. The play follows Vivian Bearing, a renowned professor of English literature, as she battles stage IV metastatic ovarian cancer. As Vivian's health declines, she is forced to confront her own mortality and come to terms with the approaching end of her life. Through Vivian's journey, Edson explores the

universal human experience of facing death, and the complex emotions that accompany it: fear, anger, grief, and acceptance.

Another important theme in *Wit* is the power of language. Vivian is a brilliant scholar and a gifted writer, and her love of language is evident throughout the play. Even as her physical body fails her, Vivian finds solace and meaning in the written word. She quotes poetry, analyzes literature, and writes her own sonnets, using language as a way to express her innermost thoughts and feelings. Through Vivian's relationship with language, Edson explores the transformative power of words, and the ways in which they can shape our understanding of the world and our place in it.

Characters

Vivian Bearing is the central character in *Wit*. She is a complex and multifaceted woman, who is both brilliant and vulnerable. Vivian is fiercely independent and intellectually curious, but she is also deeply afraid of death. As she faces her own mortality, Vivian must learn to come to terms with her own fears and limitations, and to find meaning in her life beyond her academic achievements.

The other characters in *Wit* play important roles in Vivian's journey. Dr. Posner is Vivian's oncologist, who is both compassionate and pragmatic. Susie Monahan is Vivian's nurse, who provides her with both physical and emotional support. Jason Posner is Vivian's former student, who is now a doctor. Jason witnesses Vivian's decline firsthand, and his own faith is challenged as he struggles to come to terms with the limitations of medicine.

Language

Edson's use of language in *Wit* is both lyrical and precise. The play is written in a spare, poetic style, which reflects Vivian's own love of language. Edson uses imagery and metaphor to create a vivid and emotionally resonant world, drawing on both the academic and the everyday to explore the complex themes of the play.

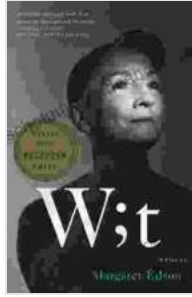
The play is also notable for its use of humor. Vivian's wit and sarcasm provide moments of levity in the midst of her suffering. This humor helps to humanize Vivian and to make her more relatable to audiences. It also serves to highlight the absurdity of death, and the ways in which we often try to avoid or deny it.

Critical Reception

Wit received widespread critical acclaim upon its debut. The play won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1999, and was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play. Critics praised Edson's writing, her characters, and her exploration of life, death, and the human spirit. The play has been hailed as a masterpiece of American theater, and it continues to be performed around the world.

Margaret Edson's *Wit* is a powerful and moving play that explores the universal human experiences of life, death, and the human spirit. Through the character of Vivian Bearing, Edson creates a complex and relatable protagonist who must confront her own mortality and come to terms with the approaching end of her life. The play's lyrical language, compelling characters, and important themes have resonated with audiences and critics alike, making it a truly unforgettable theatrical experience.

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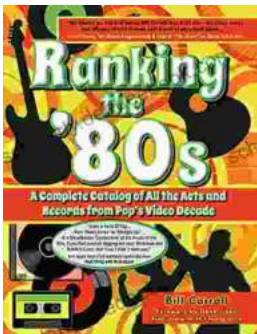
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