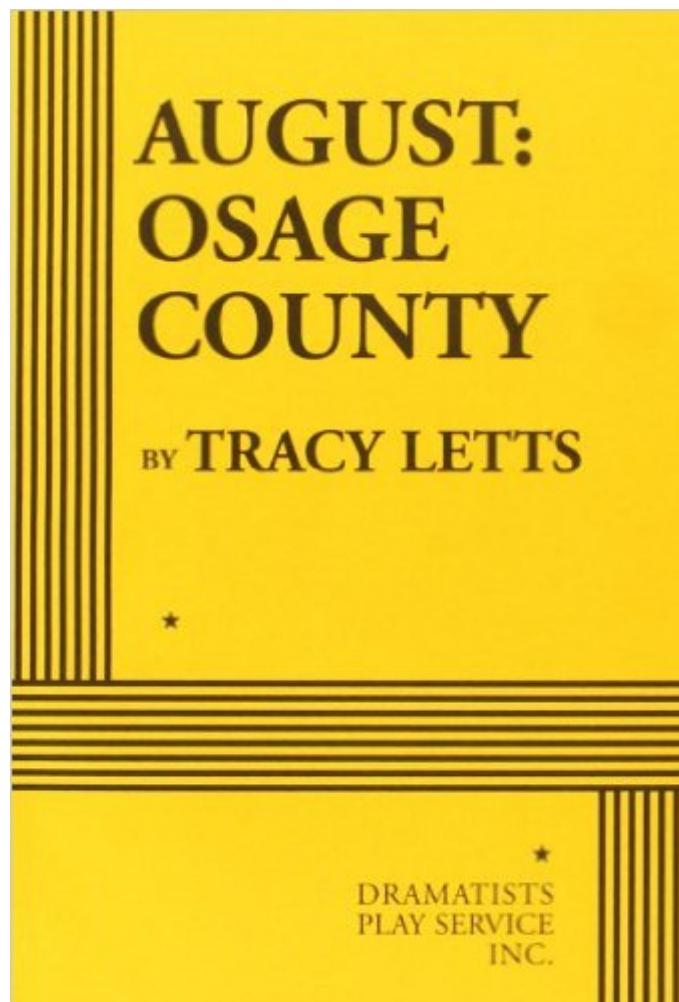


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August: Osage County - Acting Edition



Synopsis

Winner of the 2008 Tony Award® for Best Play, Tracy Letts' darkly comic epic offers a painfully funny look at a family struggling in the desolate heart of America. An L.A. Theatre Works full cast recording, featuring members of the original Steppenwolf Theatre and Broadway productions: Tara Lynne Barr as Jean Fordham Shannon Cochran as Barbara Fordham Rosemarie DeWitt as Ivy Weston Deanna Dunagan as Violet Weston (Tony Award®, Best Leading Actress) Kimberly Guerrero as Johnna Monevata Francis Guinan as Charlie Aiken Scott Jaeck as Sheriff Deon Gilbeau Ron Livingston as Little Charles Robert Maffia as Steve Heidebrecht Mariann Mayberry as Karen Weston Robert Pine as Beverly Weston Rondi Reed as Mattie Fae Aiken (Tony Award®, Best Featured Actress) David Warshofsky as Bill Fordham Directed by Bart DeLorenzo. Recorded by L.A. Theatre Works before a live audience. "Outrageously funny and touching." •AudioFile Magazine "At its heart is Mama Violet, played to shrewish perfection by Deanna Dunaganâ the reactions and interactions of the excellent cast are just as well developed and delivered." •Publishers Weekly --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

Debuting in 2007, Tracy Letts' AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY was an instant critical success, and many compared Letts with such Eugene O'Neill and his LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT and Edward Albee and his WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF. Letts certainly has the great sense of theatre that characterizes these writers and their plays, but in truth one might better describe him as the Jacqueline Susann of the theatrical world, with AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY something like a

rural VALLEY OF THE DOLLS. Alcohol, drugs, suicide, nasty divorce, ill-advised marriage, seduction, child molestation, incest, and racism are the fabric of his tale--tossed about with considerable profanity and some of the nastiest dark humor imaginable. "She smuggled Darvocet into the psych ward in her vagina," daughter Barbara says acidly of her drug-addicted mother Violet. "There's your Greatest Generation for you. She made this speech to us while she was clenching a bottle of pills in her cooch, for God's sake." The play opens as Beverly Weston, a noted poet, retired professor, and practicing alcoholic interviews Johnna for the position of housekeeper, cook, and his wife Violet's keeper. Beverly is drunk, but not so drunk that he cannot give a mean lecture on the tendencies of Hart Crane, John Berryman, and T.S. Eliot in a stream of remarks that eventually become the intellectual key of the play--for Eliot, he has made a disastrous marriage and like Crane and Berryman he is preparing to commit suicide.

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