



Joan Littlewood (Routledge Performance Practitioners)

By Nadine Holdsworth

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The only book currently available on Joan Littlewood and her company, 'Theatre Workshop', this book explores the background to, and the work of a major influence on twentieth- and twenty-first-century performance.

Part of the successful *Routledge Performance Practitioners* series, this book uses original archival material to explore Joan Littlewood – a theatrical and cultural innovator whose contributions to theatre made a huge impact on the way theatre was generated, rehearsed and presented during the twentieth century.

This is the first book to combine:

- an overview of Littlewood's career in relation to the wider social, political and cultural context
- an exploration of Littlewood's theatrical influences, approach to actor's training, belief in the creative ensemble, attitude to text, rehearsal methods and use of improvisation
- a detailed case study of the origins, research, creative process and thinking behind Littlewood's most famous production, *Oh What a Lovely War*, and an assessment of its impact
- a series of practical exercises designed to capture and illustrate the key approaches Littlewood used in the rehearsal room.

As a first step towards critical understanding, and as an initial exploration before going on to further, primary research, *Joan Littlewood* is unbeatable value for today's student.

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'Excellently researched, well written and highly readable... particularly "student friendly"'. - CHOICE

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