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TWO EARLY, PROVOCATIVE PLAYS
BY WALLACE SHAWN
INCLUDING THE OBIE AWARD-WINNING,
NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED
OUR LATE NIGHT,
NOW AVAILABLE FROM TCG BOOKS

“Shawn’s plays are everything you dream of theater being—really smart, stimulating, unsettling, hilarious and truthful. The quality of his writing places Shawn in the company of heavyweight playwright-thinkers like Tony Kushner and Caryl Churchill.” —Don Shewey, *American Theatre*

Our Late Night: “A short play, but a savage one... Neurosis, panic and sexual surreality underlie Shawn’s startling vision of New Yorkers at play.” —*The Guardian*

NEW YORK, July 2008—**Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is pleased to announce the publication of *Our Late Night* and *A Thought in Three Parts*, two early works by noted writer and actor Wallace Shawn.** The Obie Award-winning, never before published *Our Late Night* was Shawn’s first play to be performed in public. It premiered in New York in 1975 directed by André Gregory, and was revived in London in 1999 directed by Caryl Churchill. *A Thought in Three Parts* (which was previously out of print) created an uproar with its 1977 London premiere, and investigated by the vice squad for its allegedly pornographic content in order to “protect the public against this sort of pollution.” It received its U.S. premiere three decades later, in 2007, in Austin, Texas.

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In a recent profile of Shawn in *American Theatre* magazine, Don Shewey writes: “Among living American writers for the theater today, Wallace Shawn is among those most respected by his peers and championed by serious critics. Yet many regular theatergoers have never seen any of his plays performed. The plays have not been widely produced because, well, they’re rather scary for theaters to undertake. The early plays especially deal very frankly with the life of the body.”

In addition to the two plays, this volume contains an introduction and an afterword by the author. In his introduction, Shawn writes: “My plays are a response to the world we live in—I mean, I only say that because it might well seem that they take place on Mars. And like other people who write for the theater, I’m writing about how people interact in the world...but also about people’s inner states. *A Thought in Three Parts* really is a meditation: three approaches to something are being contrasted, held up to the audience for their inspection...The guests in *Our Late Night* may not be quite real. Maybe they simply express what’s going on inside the hosts as they enter into an awful, terrifying downward spiral.” In his afterword, Shawn addresses the subject of sex, exploring: “Why is sex interesting to write about?”

Wallace Shawn is a noted actor and writer. His often politically charged and controversial plays include *The Fever*, *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, *Marie and Bruce*, *The Designated Mourner*, among other. With André Gregory, he co-wrote *My Dinner with André*, in which he also starred.

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Theatre Communications Group is the national organization for the American theatre, encompassing a membership of 17,000 individuals as well as more than 460 theatre companies located throughout the United States, which present performances to an annual attendance of more than 17 million. Founded in 1961, TCG provides a variety of artistic, administrative and informational services to theatres and independent theatre artists, and acts as a forum for the profession and a resource for the media, funding agencies and the public. TCG is the publisher of *American Theatre* magazine, ARTSEARCH, and a line of performing arts books. Please visit our website and online bookstore at www.tcg.org.

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