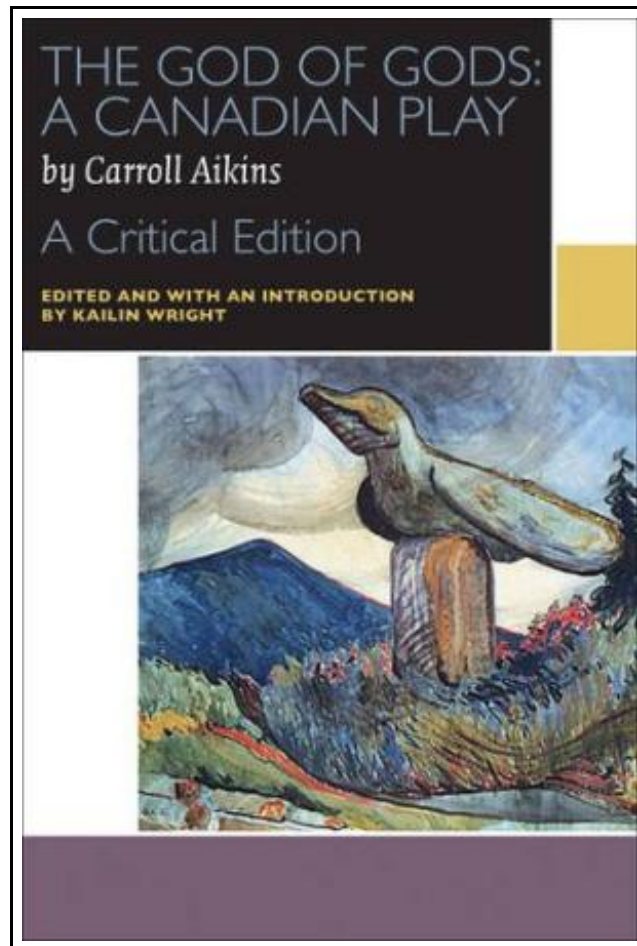


The God of Gods: A Canadian Play



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University of Ottawa Press, Canada, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Critical edition. 203 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Carroll Aikins's play *The God of Gods* (1919) has been out of print since its first and only edition in 1927. This critical edition not only revives the work for readers and scholars alike, it also provides historical context for Aikins's often overlooked contributions to theatre in the 1920s and presents research on the different staging techniques in the play's productions. Much of the play's historical significance lies in Aikins's vital role in Canadian theatre, as director of the Home Theatre in British Columbia (1920-22) and artistic director of Toronto's Hart House Theatre (1927-29). Wright reveals *The God of Gods* as a modernist Canadian work with overt influences from European and American modernisms. Aikins's work has been compared to European modernists Gordon Craig, Adolphe Appia, and Jacques Copeau. Importantly, he was also intimately connected with modernist Canadian artists and the Group of Seven (who painted the scenery for Hart House Theatre). *The God of Gods* contributes to current studies of theatrical modernism by exposing the primitivist aesthetics and theosophical beliefs promoted by some of Canada's art circles at the turn of the twentieth century. Whereas Aikins is clearly progressive in his political critique of materialism and organized religion, he presents a conservative dramatization of the noble savage as hero. The critical introduction examines how *The God of Gods* engages with Nietzschean and theosophical philosophies in order to dramatize an Aboriginal lover-artist figure that critiques religious idols, materialism, and violence. Ultimately, *The God of Gods* offers a look into how English and Canadian theatre audiences responded to primitivism, theatrical modernism, and theosophical tenets during the 1920s.

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