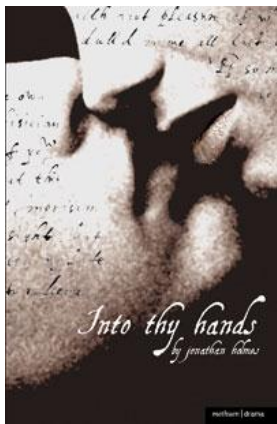


## Into Thy Hands by Jonathan Holmes



Centred round the real-life figure of John Donne, *Into Thy Hands* is a play that confronts issues of faith, sex, language and religion around the turn of the seventeenth century. The setting is the pinnacle of the English Renaissance and the play charts the beginnings of a project that would come to dominate the next three centuries, and one where Donne was at its very heart. This world is seeing the birth of a new Bible, a new science, and a decadent court. The play focuses, however, on Donne's life in 1611 at a point when, in his late thirties, he is preoccupied with problems in his marriage and young family. Jonathan Holmes's play is essentially about a man's struggle to be faithful against the odds.

"Jonathan Holmes explores the poet's struggle to choose between the church and his carnal desires... A... mesmerising play." *The Stage*

*Into Thy Hands* premiered at Wilton's Music Hall on 2 June 2011.

**Genre:** historical drama  
**Cast:** m4 f5  
**Set:** various London locations

**Fee:** £56 plus VAT, per performance  
**Scripts:** ISBN 9781408156520, £9.99  
**Length:** 2 acts

**Contact:** [amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com](mailto:amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com)

### Extract

**Layfield** What would you have me do?

**John** Explain.

**Layfield** I have.

**John** Justify.

**Layfield** I tried.

**John** Argue!

**Layfield** God's breath, the man reads Hebrew as well as !! What would you employ?

**John** Ravish.

**Layfield** Ravish? Oh, marvellous.

**John** Loving is too . . . sweet. Babes can love. Caressing is close, but insufficient.

**Layfield** Ravish?

**John** Well, fuck, if you prefer.

**Layfield** You push too far!

**John** Yes, that too is in the sense: 'Kiss me! Make me drunk with kisses! Fuck me! Thy body is better than wine!'

**Layfield** Enough! Remember my cloth!

**John** As souls unbodied, bodies unclothed must be.

**Layfield** John, our friendship! I cannot hear this!

**John** And what of truth, John? What of that? What cares Andrewes of truth?

**Layfield** Lower your voice, he'll hear you.

### If you enjoyed this, you might like:

- *The Lucky Ones* by Charlotte Eilenberg (m3 f4)
- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens/Gary Owen (m17 f11)
- *Albert's Boy* by James Graham (m2)

Please contact [amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com](mailto:amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com) for more details.

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