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## Jerusalem (NHB Modern Plays)

By Jez Butterworth



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Jerusalem (NHB Modern Plays) By Jez Butterworth

A comic, contemporary vision of life in England's green and pleasant land. Winner of the Evening Standard Award for Best Play, and the Criti Circle and Whatsonstage.com Awards for Best New Play.

On St George's Day, the morning of the local country fair, Johnny 'Rooster' Byron, local waster and Lord of Misrule, is a wanted man. The council officials want to serve him an eviction notice, his son wants to be taken to the fair, a vengeful father wants to give him a serious kicking, and a motley crew of mates wants his ample supply of drugs and alcohol.

*Jerusalem* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre, London, in 2009, directed by Ian Rickson and starring Mark Rylance in an astonishing performance as Johnny Byron. It transferred to the West End in 2010.

**'Unarguably one of the best dramas of the twenty-first century'** *Guardian*

**'Tender, touching, and blessed with both a ribald humour and a haunting sense of the mystery of things... one of the must-see events of the summer'** *Telegraph*

**'Jez Butterworth's gorgeous, expansive new play keeps coming at its audience in unpredictable gusts, rolling from comic to furious, from winsome to bawdy'** *Observer*

**'Storming... restores one's faith in the power of theatre'** *Independent*

**'Show of the year'** *Time Out*



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## **Jerusalem (NHB Modern Plays) By Jez Butterworth Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“An instant modern classic” – Charles Spencer, *Daily Telegraph*

FOUR STARS: “A welcome blast of bracing fresh air. Tender, touching, and blessed with both a ribald humour and a haunting sense of the mystery of things.” – Charles Spencer, *Daily Telegraph*

FOUR STARS: “Jerusalem is a bold, ebullient and often hilarious State-of-England or (almost) State-of-Olde-England play.” – Benedict Nightingale, *The Times*

“One of the most exciting new plays in ages.” – Ben Brantley, *New York Times*

“Magnificent... a great frame-busting play that still exists solidly within a conventional framework. Jerusalem could have been written in almost any year from the 1920s onward. Yet this work takes you places — distant, out-of-time places — that well-made plays seldom do. And it thinks big — transcendently big — in ways contemporary drama seldom dares.” – Ben Brantley, *New York Times*

“Jez Butterworth’s gorgeous expansive new play keeps coming at its audience in unpredictable gusts, rolling from comic to furious, from winsome to bawdy.” – Susannah Clapp, *The Observer*

FIVE STARS: “An invigorating, yelping, defiant portrait of 21st century shires England.” – Quentin Letts, *Daily Mail*

FOUR STARS: “A wonderful, rollicking, dark comedy about contemporary life in rural England.” – Sarah Hemming, *Financial Times*

FIVE STARS: “Hilarious and/or gripping throughout.” – Caroline McGinn, *Time Out London*

“Jez Butterworth's Jerusalem is one big, messy, exciting, long play.” – Robert Hurwitt, *San Francisco Chronicle*

### About the Author

Plays include *Mojo*, *The Night Heron*, *The Winterling* and *Jerusalem*. *Mojo*, *The Night Heron* and *Parlour Song* have been produced in New York in acclaimed productions at Atlantic Theater Company. He has written and directed two films: *Mojo* (1998) and *Birthday Girl* (2002). In 2009 he wrote and produced *Fair Game*. In 2014 he co-wrote the screenplays for *Edge of Tomorrow* and *Get on Up*. He is writing the screenplay for *London Calling*, about the British punk rock band, the Clash. He has won two Evening Standard Awards and Olivier, Critics’ Circle, Writers’ Guild and George Devine Awards. In 2007, he received the E.M. Forster Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

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