

"All beauty is a making one of opposites, and the making one of opposites is what we are going after in ourselves."—Eli Siegel

SUNDAY ✧ APRIL 23 ✧ 2:30 PM

SHAKESPEARE'S OTHELLO; OR, CLEVER AND DEEP EVIL

BY ELI SIEGEL

A DRAMATIC PRESENTATION OF ELI SIEGEL'S POWERFUL 1950 LECTURE

— with scenes from the play —

We celebrate the birthday of William Shakespeare with this dramatic event! Through it you'll see that his great play *Othello* has immediate practicality for men and women today. We all need to understand what Othello needed to understand: what should we be for and what should we be against in ourselves?

What impelled Iago in his evil? Why was Othello so ready to listen to him? Why did Othello's love for Desdemona so quickly change into murderous jealousy?

In his groundbreaking 1950 lecture on the play, Eli Siegel, founder of Aesthetic Realism, makes clear that the characters in *Othello* can teach us something central we need to know about the world and our lives—about love, and our purposes with people:

"Iago represents the cunningness of evil in every person. He says to people, Look, if you think you've dealt with the problem of evil that quickly, by making speeches about it and smiling at each other—don't fool yourselves!

The only way you can fight for good is to keep on understanding evil and *never* get tired. Otherwise, evil will come upon you, and fool you."

Mr. Siegel explains, as no other critic has, the evil that makes for tragedy in *Othello*. It's the desire, which is in every person, to have *contempt for the world*. And he shows that the beauty of Shakespeare's art, the music of his poetry, the power of his dramatic technique, arise from what humanity needs most to have: fairness to the world and the feelings of people!

— with —

ANNE FIELDING ✧ BENNETT COOPERMAN ✧ CARRIE WILSON ✧ DEREK MALI
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