



## Short Eyes: A Play

*Miguel Piñero , Marvin Felix Camillo (Introduction)*

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**Short Eyes: A Play** Miguel Piñero , Marvin Felix Camillo (Introduction)

**Winner of the New York Drama Critics Circle Award**

This powerful drama of prison life is set in a house of detention where a group of young convicts- predominantly black and Puerto Rican- taunt, fight, insult, and entertain one another in an attempt to preserve their sanity and to create a semblance of community. When a young white prisoner accused of child molesting is thrown into the cell block by a guard who says he belongs in Sing Sing because "the men up there know what to do with degenerates like you," the stage is set for an explosive series of events; for, among prisoners, this child molester called "short eyes" is the lowest of criminals.

## Short Eyes: A Play Details

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Author : Miguel Piñero , Marvin Felix Camillo (Introduction)

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# From Reader Review Short Eyes: A Play for online ebook

## **Zhana Xhamila says**

Great olay! Must read if interested in dynamics of prison life

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## **Dana Jerman says**

Dark subject matter and use of slang and syntax are the main literary benefits to reading this play.

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## **Jessica says**

Written by a former inmate. Interesting insight to the prison system.

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## **R.K. Byers says**

great pacing and rhythm. it's what rappers go for, i think, when they're trying to be authentic.

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## **Tanya says**

MUCH better than "Jesus Hopped The 'A' Train." This play is very compelling and explores the characters of all of the prisoners, ever the most disturbing one of all, "Short Eyes."

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## **Jennifer Shorstein says**

Not easy to read but terrifyingly human. A glimpse at prison life, the boundaries of humanity and judgement are brought under a stark light here.

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## **Jan Rog says**

Neither long nor difficult, this was still a hard book for me to read as it presents prison life with shocking honesty. Vivid language, strong characters, and even sympathetic scenes all surprised me. Very well written drama! I'm preparing for my upcoming classes and find myself rereading earlier materials; this is not pleasant by any means, but I'm glad I reread it just now.

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## **Brian says**

This is a difficult drama about a difficult subject with language from a different time and culture in American history. It didn't resonate with me in the way that it probably would with readers who are intimately familiar with that culture, but Piñero's skill and confidence in writing with the voices of such different characters is undeniable. I would appreciate the opportunity to see this play performed by actors who are up to the challenge. I can well imagine this piece would take on additional dimensions beyond my limited imagination.

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## **Darius says**

Took me a while to catch on that the 'main character' here is really the initial group of prisoners. Even more interesting that I think Piñero tries to include us in the prisoner environment and toward the end asks 'is this really us' without condemning the prison system in the US outright. I'm used to condemning the prison system outright. He seems to be getting at something a little more general and rankling in the human soul/condition. At times dated and obvious, it's still also compelling and thought-provoking. It's great to witness by turns how normal and humane, or not, these criminals are-- all disposed of together.

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## **Matt says**

A play that was so well written yet so raw that I wanted to put it down at times because of its bright light on the darkest parts of humanity, but it kept me hooked. I read the whole thing in one sitting and felt I needed to take a hot shower afterwards and thank my lucky stars that I wasn't incarcerated.

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## **Zan says**

the books assigned for my latin@ countercultures class always have depressingly few 'reads' on this site

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## **Tim says**

This was a real dark, nasty play that speaks directly to the ghetto experience. I wanted to teach it to a high school class, but my boss said no way - far too violent, too much bad language and prison homosex. The author was a legitimate convict himself - a small-time thief and drug fiend who died of AIDS (I think) at the age of 35-40. This play was something that he started in a prison writing class, and while he may have been a hoodlum, he could really write. This is very potent, intense stuff all the way thru - it is a harrowing journey, but one worth taking. Pinero had an excellent sense of drama and tension, and this play is brimming with both.

The story focuses on a group of toughs in a New York State penitentiary. Most of them are Black, a couple are Hispanic, and one is an Irish-American. One of them is an attractive young man who keeps getting hit on by a predatory gay convict. Another has adopted a half-baked radical philosophy. Into this mix comes Clark,

a quiet, seemingly respectable upper middle-class white man, who has no business being there except that he is a "short eyes" - a child molester. The tension grows as it becomes clear that some of the other inmates want to kill him or at least turn his life into a hell. At one point, Clark confesses in great detail to another inmate - he is a hardcore, serial child molester and Pinero sticks the knife in and turns it as he describes the little girls falling for Clark and thinking of him as a boyfriend or something.

I have seen several movies or plays that depict prison life, but this one is the best. It is dark and brutal, but also totally believable.

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## **Sara says**

Ever feel bad about shit?

Read this. . .then follow up with "We're All Doing Time" by Bo Lozoff. . .and then you'll feel better. ..trust me. ..

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