## **Performing Nerves: Unmasking Hysteria** through Plays and Essays

#### A Journey into the Depths of Hysteria

Prepare to be captivated by "Performing Nerves," a groundbreaking literary work that explores the intriguing phenomenon of hysteria. This thoughtprovoking collection weaves together four compelling plays and four insightful essays to provide a multifaceted examination of hysteria's historical, psychological, and cultural significance.



#### Performing Nerves: Four Plays, Four Essays, On

**Hysteria** by Anna Furse

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5

Language : English File size : 3333 KB : Enabled Text-to-Speech Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print lenath : 242 pages X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



Through the lens of theater and scholarship, "Performing Nerves" invites you to witness the raw power and enigmatic nature of hysteria. Embark on an intellectual journey that will challenge your understanding, spark discussion, and leave a lasting impact on your perception of this fascinating subject.

#### **Plays: A Theatrical Exploration**

Immerse yourself in four theatrical masterpieces that bring hysteria to life on stage. From ancient Greece to modern times, these plays showcase the diverse manifestations and complexities of this condition:

- The Bacchae by Euripides: Witness the tragic tale of women driven to madness by the intoxicating power of a god.
- Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw: Explore the transformative relationship between a sculptor and his creation, revealing the blurred lines between reality and fantasy.
- A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen: Uncover the suffocating societal constraints that can trigger hysterical reactions in a woman.
- The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams: Experience the fragile world of a dysfunctional family, where hysteria becomes a desperate cry for connection.

#### **Essays: A Scholarly Perspective**

Complementing the theatrical explorations, four insightful essays delve into the historical, psychological, and cultural aspects of hysteria:

- Hysteria: A Historical Perspective: Trace the evolution of hysteria's understanding from ancient medical texts to modern psychological theories.
- Hysteria and the Female Body: Examine the gendered nature of hysteria and its impact on women's lives.
- Hysteria, Culture, and Society: Explore the complex interplay between hysteria and cultural norms, examining how social

expectations can shape its manifestations.

**Hysteria in Performance:** Discuss the use of hysteria as a theatrical device, exploring its potential for both catharsis and exploitation.

#### **A Transformative Literary Experience**

"Performing Nerves" is more than just a book; it is a thought-provoking journey into the enigmatic realm of hysteria. Through a captivating blend of theatrical artistry and scholarly analysis, this collection offers a transformative literary experience that will:

- Expand your understanding of hysteria's multifaceted nature.
- Challenge societal perceptions and stereotypes.
- Spark discussions on mental health and societal well-being.
- Provide a valuable resource for students, scholars, and individuals interested in psychology, theater, and cultural studies.

Immerse yourself in the pages of "Performing Nerves" and discover the raw power of hysteria, its historical roots, cultural impact, and potential for artistic expression. This book is a must-read for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the human psyche and the transformative nature of art.



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