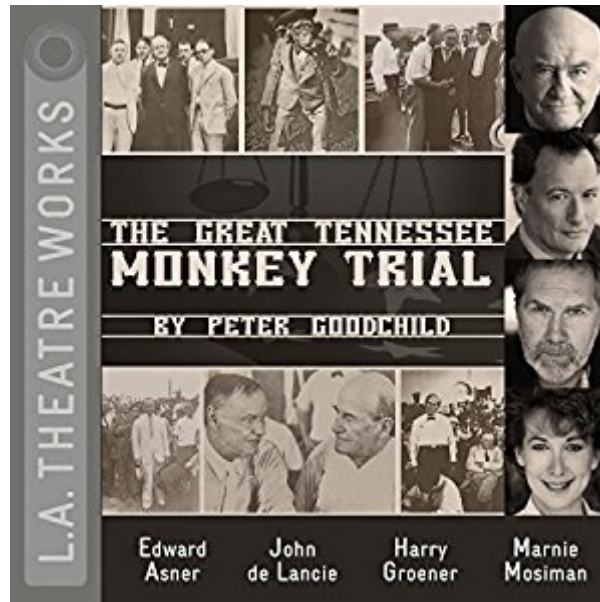


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The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial



Synopsis

The Scopes Trial, over the right to teach evolution in public schools, reaffirmed the importance of intellectual freedom. In 1925, this Tennessee trial set the stage for ongoing national debates over the separation of church and state in a democratic society. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 1 hour 55 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Original recording

Publisher: L.A. Theatre Works

Audible.com Release Date: November 2, 2006

Language: English

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Best Sellers Rank: #206 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Drama

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Customer Reviews

I'm not really sure how I feel about this play, to be quite honest.

It's an interesting subject, and full cast audios are the best, especially when they're by LA Theatre Works and the actors are actually performing. However, simply based on the fact that it's supposed to represent a historical event, I just didn't like that I wasn't sure which parts were dramatized and which were truly taken from the court records, especially when it came to dialogue. There were some parts that I feel like might have been added simply for entertainment/humor value, but if they weren't, then that would have interested me in a completely different way, but I was never sure if any/all of it was true or made up. Besides that, it's an interesting case that's worth further study and thought. Since Andrew's a teacher, and I studied education for my Master's, the way law and social norms influence how and what we teach is incredibly interesting to me, so that helped a lot for pulling me into the story in general. This case also foreshadows a lot of the textbook wars we have present-day, so it's fascinating to hear some of these first arguments for/against teaching evolution/religion. Very cool. However, I think it'd be better to actually see

the play or read the book. It was hard for me to keep all the characters straight, and within the trial, I think it's important to know who is speaking and who is making what argument (even though after a while, you can figure it out). Admittedly, I'm not the best when it comes to remembering details when I'm only getting information through audio, so if audio is your strong suit, then it might not be a problem for you. Overall, however, I think it was a good dramatization of the trial and it presented a lot of interesting factors that (like the description says) we're still debating today, especially within education. I just think that I would have much preferred to read this than to listen to it, even with the full cast.

"The Great Tennessee Monkey Trail" is a brilliantly written and flawlessly produced play by Peter Goodchild who drew from original sources and the actual trial transcripts. This audiobook production was directed by Gordon Hunt and features the talented contributions of Edward Asner (who plays William Jennings Bryan), Mike Farrell (as Clarence Darrow), Matthew Patrick Davis (the defendant, John Thomas Scopes), Shaon Gless as the narrator, and a superb supporting cast that includes James Gleason, Matthew Underwood, Robert Pescovitz, David Alan Novak, Rob Nage, Jon Matthews, Jerry Hardin, and Harry Groener. This infamous 1925 trial that sought to allow the teaching of Darwinian theories of evolution in the Christian fundamentalist oriented public school systems of a southern state is compelling recreated and is as dramatic a confrontation as those going on today between proponents of 'Intelligent Design' and science with respect to the evolution of species. Strongly recommended for both school and community library collections, "The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial" offers the listener a perfect 'theater of the mind' experience on two compact discs with a combined total running time of 1 hour and 52 minutes.

Everyone has heard of this trial. However, until I heard this rendition of the trial and play I wasn't as interested. This play sheds new light on it and makes it so much more interesting and actually brought it to life for me.

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