



Pillars of the Community: in a version

By Henrik Ibsen

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Calamity strikes when Bernick's business prowess and pristine reputation are threatened by the revelation of a long-buried secret. Desperate to dodge exposure in the kowtowing local community, Bernick devises a pitiless plan which, by a shocking twist of fate, risks the one life he holds dear.

The centenary of Ibsen's death is marked with a vital new version of this rarely performed thriller, set amid a society struggling against the rush of capitalism, the lure of America and the passionate beginnings of the fight for female emancipation.

Samuel Adamson version of *Pillars of the Community* premiered at the National Theatre, London, in October 2005.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906), Norwegian poet and playwright, was one of the shapers of modern theatre, who tempered naturalism with an understanding of social responsibility and individual psychology. His earliest major plays, *Brand* (1866) and *Peer Gynt* (1867), were large-scale verse dramas, but with *Pillars of the Community* (1877) he began to explore contemporary issues. There followed *A Doll's House* (1879), *Ghosts* (1881) and *An Enemy of the People* (1882). A richer understanding of the complexity of human impulses marks such later works as *The Wild Duck* (1885), *Rosmersholm* (1886), *Hedda Gabler* (1890) and *The Master Builder* (1892), while the imminence of mortality overshadows his last great plays, *John Gabriel Borkman* (1896) and *When We Dead Awaken* (1899). Samuel Adamson's plays include: *Some Kind of Bliss* (Trafalgar Studios), *All About My Mother* (from *Almodovar*; Old Vic), *Fish and Company* (Soho Theatre/National Youth Theatre), *Southwark Fair* (National Theatre), *Drink, Dance, Laugh and Lie* (Bush Theatre/Channel 4), *Grace Note* (Peter Hall Company/Old Vic), *Clocks and Whistles* (Bush Theatre) and contributions to the *24 Hour Plays* (Old Vic), *A Chain Play* (Almeida Theatre) and *Urban Scrawl* (TheatreVoice/Theatre 503). Adaptations include: Ibsen's *Pillars of the Community* and *Mrs Affleck*, from Ibsen's *Little Eyolf*, (both at the National Theatre) *A Doll's House* (Southwark Playhouse); Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* (Oxford Stage Company/Riverside Studios) and *Three Sisters* (OSC/Whitehall Theatre); Schnitzler's *Professor Bernhardt* (Dumbfounded Theatre/Arcola Theatre/Radio 3) and Bernhard Studlar's *Vienna Dreaming* (National Theatre Studio). Radio includes: *Tomorrow Week* (Radio 3). Film includes *Running for River* (Directional Studios/Krug). He was Pearson Writer in Residence at the Bush in 1997-8.

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