Christopher Fry
(1907 – 2005)

Biography

Christopher Fry, originally Christopher Harris, was born on December 18, 1907 in Bristol, Gloucestershire, England. He adopted his mother’s surname after he became a schoolteacher at age 18, his father having died many years earlier.

Fry was an actor, director, and writer of revues and plays. He gained fame as a playwright for *The Lady’s Not for Burning* (1948), an ironic comedy set in medieval times whose heroine is charged with being a witch. *A Phoenix Too Frequent* (1946) retells a tale from Petronius Arbiter. *The Boy with a Cart* (1950), a story of St. Cuthman, is a legend of miracles and faith in the style of the mystery plays. *A Sleep of Prisoners* (1951) and *The Dark Is Light Enough* (1954) explore religious themes.

After many years of translating and adapting plays—including *Ring Round the Moon* (produced 1950; adapted from Jean Anouilh’s *L’Invitation du château*), *Duel of Angels* (produced 1963; adapted from Jean Giraudoux’s *Pour Lucrèce*), and *Peer Gynt* (produced 1970; based on Johan Fillinger’s translation of Henrik Ibsen’s play)—Fry wrote *A Yard of Sun*, which was produced in 1970.

Fry also collaborated on the screenplays of the epic films *Ben Hur* (1959) and *Barabbas* (1962), and he wrote plays for both radio and television. His *Can You Find Me: A Family History* was published in 1978.¹

Christopher Fry died on June 30, 2005, in Chichester, West Sussex.

¹ “Christopher Fry”, *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*,
www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/221164/Christopher-Fry
Selected Materials Available at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Works by the Author

Plays (Print)

BA Call Number: 822.91 F946b (B4 -- Special Collections -- Closed Stacks)

BA Call Number: 822.914 Fry C (B1 -- Shadi Abdel Salam Collection)

BA Call Number: 822.91 F946 1951 (B4 -- Special Collections -- Closed Stacks)

BA Call Number: 822 Fry P (B1 -- Shadi Abdel Salam Collection)

BA Call Number: 822.914 Fry P (B1 -- Shadi Abdel Salam Collection)

BA Call Number: 822.91 F946 (B4 -- Special Collections -- Closed Stacks)

BA Call Number: 822.91 F946v (B4 -- Special Collections -- Closed Stacks)
Plays (Electronic)


Screenplays

BA Call Number: DVD 1289 (B3 -- Arts & Multimedia Library -- Closed Stacks)

BA Call Number: DVD 1260 (B3 -- Arts & Multimedia Library -- Closed Stacks)
Translations

BA Call Number: 842.912 G522t (B2 -- Special Collections -- Closed Stacks)

Articles

e-article. JSTOR (database).
Works about the Author

E-Books


Theses


Articles


Obituaries


“Christopher Fry: Witty Playwright Whose Glittering Costume Dramas Offered an Escape from the Austerity of Postwar Britain”. The Times (4 Jul 2005). Online e-article. www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/obituaries/article540139.ece [accessed 5 Dec 2010]


Web Resources