

SUNDAY ♣ NOVEMBER 12 ♣ 2 PM

AN AESTHETIC REALISM DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

SHAKESPEARE'S

JULIUS CAESAR; OR,

MIXED MOTIVES

IN ANCIENT ROME

BY ELI SIEGEL

WE ARE PROUD TO BRING TO THE PUBLIC A MATINEE OF TREMENDOUS DRAMATIC POWER, new in the history of theatre. In it you will see Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* comprehended as never before! And you will learn about motives in people of Rome 2,000 years ago, in people today—in yourself!

In 1951 Eli Siegel, founder of Aesthetic Realism and greatest of Shakespearean scholars, gave a 2-part lecture on *Julius Caesar*. It is this definitive work, vivid, beautiful, immediate—containing many scenes from the play—which we present as living drama. Mr. Siegel explained:



"Julius Caesar is essentially about confusion. There is not a person in the play of any account who isn't perplexed. We have what interested Shakespeare so much: the way emotion is flexible, contrary, rich, puzzling; and the way people can have one feeling and have something so different in the same minute."

There is Julius Caesar, who conquered so much of the known world and is also a preeminent writer and historian:

"Shakespeare was trying to present in Caesar those magnificent contraries that he saw were in himself, in things. He saw Caesar as ever so mighty, but then he saw that Caesar likewise could be so displeased with himself, so fumbling, so murky."

There are Brutus, Cassius, and the other conspirators, mostly aristocrats, who assassinated Caesar. What was their motive? They claimed it was love of "liberty"—but was there something big to respect in Caesar that Brutus and the others couldn't stand? Was it Brutus and Cassius or Julius Caesar who cared more for the people of Rome? Brutus talks, Mr. Siegel said, "about 'liberty' in a way that really doesn't feel for people. A lot of that goes on today."

Today, as in 44 BC, the big fight in people and nations is the fight between *contempt* and *good will*, or *kindness*. Said Mr. Siegel: "We can ask, How kind was Caesar? I see kindness as the height of intellect, the height of subtlety, the height of perception.... I think Caesar was kind, and did have a great love in his heart—more so, perhaps, than any other Roman."

At this matinee, what everyone most needs to know and the greatest pleasure, excitement, and art are the same thing!



— with scenes from the play —

ANNE FIELDING • BENNETT COOPERMAN • CARRIE WILSON • TIMOTHY LYNCH
CAROL McCLUER • DEREK MALI • ARNOLD PEREY • KAREN VAN OUTRYVE

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