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“Atlantic is where I learned to act.”
— Anna Chlumsky

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The Subtext: Plays That Fill You Up

This month Brian surveys playwrights, directors, dramaturgs, and critics about the works they just can't shake, and why.

BY AMERICAN THEATRE EDITORS

Usually, once a month Brian James Polak talks to a fellow playwright about what irks, agitates, motivates, inspires and—ultimately—what makes them tick.

This month, inspired by a recent Twitter thread, Brian tries something different: He connected with several playwrights, dramaturgs, critics, and directors to hear about the plays they've read or seen in their lives that have stuck with them, that they've never been able to shake—or, as Brian calls them, plays that *fill you up*. The result is an inspiring list of excellent contemporary plays.

Timestamps:

04:30 Dani Oliver on *Guards at the Taj* by Rajiv Joseph

10:03 Sarah Cho on *Buried Child* by Sam Shepard

13:03 Lily Janiak on *Gloria* by Branden Jacobs Jenkins

16:25 Daniel Olivas on *Zoot Suit* by Luis Valdez

23:53 Jer Adrienne Lelliott on *A Kind of Weather* by Sylvan Oswald

27:26 Kari Bentley-Quinn on *Scarcity* by Lucy Thurber

32:08 Robert Firpo-Cappiello on *4:48 Psychosis* by Sarah Kane

34:09 Kristin Idaszak on *Far Away* by Caryl Churchill

43:36 Charly Evon Simpson on *Bright Half Life* by Tanya Barfield

46:46 Ray Yamanouchi on *Caught* by Christopher Chen

51:25 Anne G. Morgan on *Vietgone* by Qui Nguyen

1:00:19 Caridad Svich on *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* by John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask

1:05:15 Deb Hiatt on *The Ferryman* by Jez Butterworth

1:07:30 Inda Craig-Galvan on *The Nether* by Jennifer Haley

1:13:15 Vicki Meagher on *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe

1:15:09 David Valdes on *Wolf Play* by Hansol Jung

1:19:00 Alix Sobler on *Mary Jane* by Amy Herzog

1:24:12 Dominic D'Andrea on *MilkMilkLemonade* by Joshua Conkel

00:00

00:00

The complete episode can be downloaded [here](#).

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