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The Spoken Word: Sylvia Plath (British Library - British Library Sound Archive)



Synopsis

Sylvia Plath is widely regarded as one of the most influential American authors of the twentieth century. Her frank, confessional style of writing, combined with her marriage to fellow poet Ted Hughes and her tragic suicide at age thirty have created an enduring literary legacy and public fascination.Â Â Â Â Â This CD brings together BBC recordings from the British Library Sound Archive and features Plath reading many of her poems, such as â œLeaving Early,â • â œCandles,â • â œTulips,â • â œThe Surgeon at 2 a.m.,â • and â œBerck-Plage.â • In addition, the disc presents Plath discussing poetic craft and her move to Britain, as well as a significantly revealing interview with Plath and Hughes, in which they talk about their famous marriage and what it means to live with your muse.Â Â Â Â Â Many of these recordings are available here for the first time, and together they will be a must-have for fans of Plath and twentieth-century poetry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's been a long time coming. To date, there have been three key audio releases concerning the US poet Sylvia Plath (1932-1963): Sylvia Plath Reads (1977/1992), The Poet Speaks (1982/1995), and The Voice of the Poet (1999). But this new CD is special: it contains a previously unreleased live recording of Plath reading a poem in a London theatre, providing listeners with the chance to experience the poet with new, tantalising immediacy. All of her other known poetry recordings occurred in radio studios (usually at the BBC or the British Council). But here, she is introduced by a male host to a live audience and loud applause. She was a relatively unknown poet at the time,

more famous as the wife of British poet Ted Hughes than as a writer in her own right. The Spoken Word CD also contains a 20-minute interview with Plath and Hughes, in which they talk about where they were born, how they met, the differences and similarities between their writing styles, and their placidly domestic life in north London. In contrast to the dark myth that rose about her following her suicide in 1963 aged 30 and which rapidly spread as more and more poems - partly of an unforgiving, terrifying nature, but which also showed sharp wit and humour - came to light, Plath sounds relaxed, chatty and open. In another recording included here, What Made You Stay, Plath is interviewed alone and really comes into her own (it was conducted a month before her marriage collapsed in the wake of Hughes's affair with Assia Wevill).

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