

# Issues of Death: Mortality and Identity in English Renaissance Tragedy

*By Michael Neill*

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*Issues of Death* offers a fresh approach to the tragic drama of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Starting from the premise that "death" is a historical construct that is differently experienced in every culture, it treats Renaissance tragedy as an instrument for reimagining the human encounter with death. Analyses of major plays by Marlowe, Kyd, Shakespeare, Webster, Middleton, and Ford explore the relation of tragedy to the macabre tradition, to the apocalyptic displays of the anatomy theatre, and to the spectacular arts of funeral.

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## Editorial Review

Review

"Absorbing....[Neill is] a superlative listener in the tragic graveyard, catching the subtle cries and whispers, and vividly conveying the horrid arts of death."--*Times Literary Supplement*

"Neill's concern with the way things work out on the stage constantly illuminates shadowier aspects of the society at large."--*London Review of Books*

About the Author
Michael Neill is at University of Auckland.

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