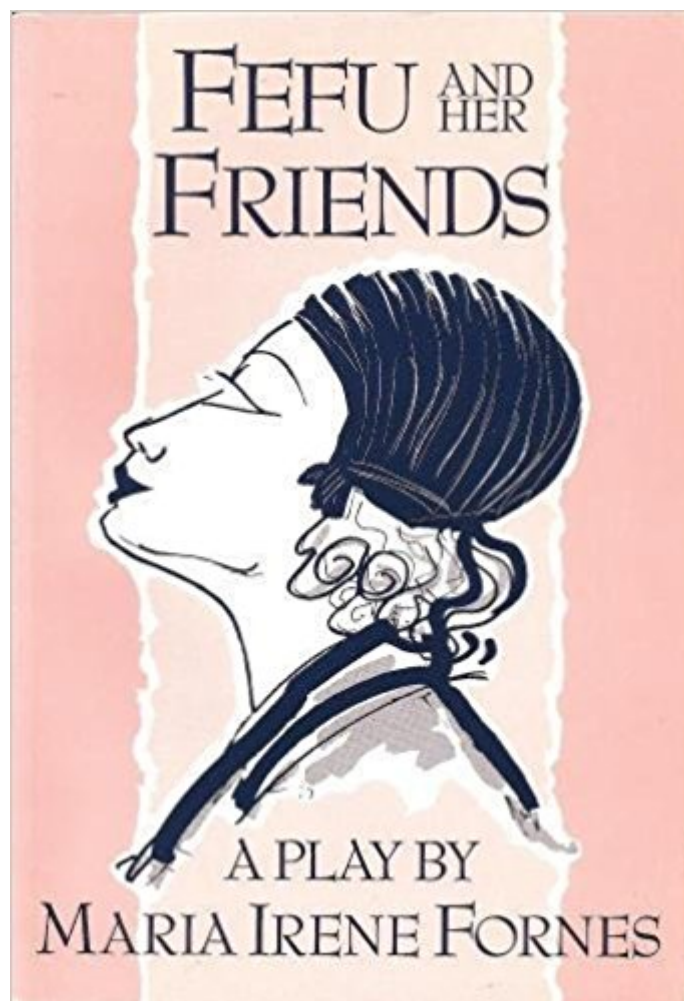


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# Fefu And Her Friends



## Synopsis

This is one of the best-loved Off-Off-Broadway plays of recent decades. In the innovative original production, which Fornes herself directed, the audience follows the lives of eight women in five different "environments." • "Fornes is America's truest poet of the theater." • Erika Munk, Village Voice

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The play's radical form and complex feminism opened up new possibilities for all playwrights." - Scott T. Cummings, author, Maria Irene Fornes "The Fornes oeuvre is one of American drama's most important achievements." - Tony Kushner "A testament to Fornes's influence is the wide range of artists who openly acknowledge her impact on their work or sensibility." - Caridad Svich, co-editor (with Maria Delgado), *Conducting a Life: Reflections on the Theatre of Maria Irene Fornes* --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

"A wonderful, important play." -- Susan Sontag

Classic Fornes, this play is an interesting prospective on the way society viewed women.

Great book, lots of important topics present in this book

Very good play about gender roles and society pressures. You have symbolism and death and rape all in one but elegantly discussed and dramatized

Maria Irene Fornes, *Fefu and Her Friends* (PAJ Publications, 1978) Okay, I will admit it right up front: I have absolutely no idea what is going on in the last act of this play, and I have done absolutely no digging on the web in order to uncover any random "what does this mean?" threads that might be hanging around. I simply let it wash over me and took it based on its merits as a written document. I should probably go looking at some point, because I liked it enough anyway to give it a strong recommend even without knowing what's going on. The characters are crisp, the dialogue zingy, the action surprisingly playful given the overall dark tone here. I don't think this is one you need to "get" in order to enjoy. Take it the same way I did--just admire it for what it is, which seems to be "obtuse". \*\*\* ã Æ (For the record, after I finished writing this, I did google it, and it seems my incomprehension was not nearly as rare as I thought it was.)

"Fefu and Her Friends," by Maria Irene Fornes, is a witty and disturbing contemporary play. A key image from the play occurs early on, when one character talks about the experience of lifting up a stone and seeing the slime, fungus, and worms underneath. "Fefu" is about peeling back the genteel facades of life and seeing the unpleasant decay that lies beneath. The play, which has an all-female cast, takes place at an elegant New England country house where the characters of the title have assembled. As the women gather to talk in various groupings, Fornes dissects such topics as gender roles, marriage, and educational conventions. Stirrings of insanity, violence, heterosexual frustration, and repressed lesbian desire contribute to the play's unsettling atmosphere. Overall, a memorable work from a grand master of contemporary theater.

this book is a nearly forgotten classic of 70's theatrical avant garde; it is so good to see it in print. Read it. It's a hoot!

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