



## The Seagull

By Anton Chekhov

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### The Seagull By Anton Chekhov

- *Idea for a story. A beautiful young girl lives by a lake all her life. She loves this lake. She's happy and free, like that bird was once. Then a man comes along and for no reason at all... what do you think he does?*

- *He destroys her.*

A story about how we make stories, a story about unrequited love, *The Seagull* is one of the great plays of the modern era. Chekhov explores emotion and creativity with the clarity of a doctor and the heart of a poet.

John Donnelly's version of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull* premiered in a Headlong and The Nuffield, Southampton co-production, in association with Derby Playhouse. The play opened in April 2013, followed by a UK tour.

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## The Seagull By Anton Chekhov Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Anton Chekhov, Russian dramatist and short-story writer, was born in 1860, the son of a grocer and the grandson of a serf. After graduating in medicine from Moscow University in 1884, he began to make his name in the theatre with the one-act comedies *The Bear*, *The Proposal* and *The Wedding*. His earliest full-length plays, *Ivanov* (1887) and *The Wood Demon* (1889), were not successful, and *The Seagull*, produced in 1896, was a failure until a triumphant revival by the Moscow Art Theatre in 1898. This was followed by *Uncle Vanya* (1899), *Three Sisters* (1901) and *The Cherry Orchard* (1904), shortly after the production of which Chekhov died. The first English translations of his plays were performed within five years of his death. John Donnelly is a past winner of the Tom Erhardt Award, the PMA Award for Best New Writer and the NSDF Sunday Times Playwriting Award. His plays include *The Pass* (Royal Court), a version of *The Seagull* (Headlong/UK Tour), *Little Russians* (Tricycle Theatre/ First Blast: Proliferation Season), *The Knowledge* (Bush Theatre), *Encourage the Others* (Almeida Projects), *Songs of Grace and Redemption* (Liminal Theatre/Theatre 503), *Showtime* (LAMDA), *Conversation #1* (The Factory/V&A/Latitude Festival) and *Bone* (Royal Court Theatre). John's work for television includes the short film *Henry* (Channel 4's *Coming Up*, 2013) and two episodes of *Utopia* (co-writer; Kudos/Channel4) and an episode of *Glue* (Channel 4/Eleven Films), both 2014. Most recently, he adapted his stage play *The Pass* for screen, produced by Duncan Kenworthy/Toledo Productions and starring Russell Tovey. *The Pass* was chosen to open the BFI Flare Festival before returning to BFI London Film Festival; it was the opening night film for NewFest and closed *Twist: Seattle Queer Film Festival*, all 2016.

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