

[Ebook free] The Kitchen (Oberon Modern Plays)

## The Kitchen (Oberon Modern Plays)

*Arnold Wesker*

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**Arnold Wesker : The Kitchen (Oberon Modern Plays)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Kitchen (Oberon Modern Plays):

1950s London. In the kitchen of an enormous West End restaurant, the orders are piling up: a post-war feast of soup,

fish, cutlets, omelettes and fruit flans. Fifteen hundred customers; half of them eating fish. I had to start work on a Friday. Thrown together by their work, chefs, waitresses and porters from across Europe; English, Irish, German, Jewish; argue and flirt as they race to keep up. Peter, a high-spirited young cook, seems to thrive on the pressure. In between preparing dishes, he manages to strike up an affair with married waitress Monique, the whole time dreaming of a better life. But in the all-consuming clamour of the kitchen, nothing is far from the brink of collapse. We all said we wouldn't last the day, but tell me what is there a man can't get used to? Arnold Wesker's extraordinary play premiered at the Royal Court in 1959 and has since been performed in over 30 countries. The Kitchen puts the workplace centre stage in a blackly funny and furious examination of life lived at breakneck speed, when work threatens to define who we are.

"Wesker's strength is his ear for the cadences of ordinary life and a political passion for those who lead it; with wit and energy it keeps you gasping." The Times "Wesker presents us with a fascinating microcosm of the melting-pot of post-war London; [and] the tyranny of the working world" Evening Standard "At his best [Wesker] is a dramatist of heart and humanity" Daily Telegraph "Anyone who has worked in a restaurant knows the sort of staff they can attract: drinkers, fighters, slackers, sex maniacs. That is the brilliance of Sir Arnold Wesker's play" Daily Mail "This National revival confirms its exhilarating theatrical cosmopolitanism as well as its historical poignancy and significance." Independent "A masterpiece of modern realism" Sunday Telegraph "The play's kitchen-sink realism is winning" Independent on Sunday "The Kitchen; like the plays of August Wilson; is that now lamentably unusual thing, a collective affair." Sunday Times "Wesker is fully alert to the quiet pockets of humanity among the mechanising forces of cheap mass labour" Metro "A fascinating portrait of post-war, pre-pill Britain's working class; Look behind the counter at McDonald's 50 years on and, but for the hairnets and the fags, little has changed." Mail on Sunday