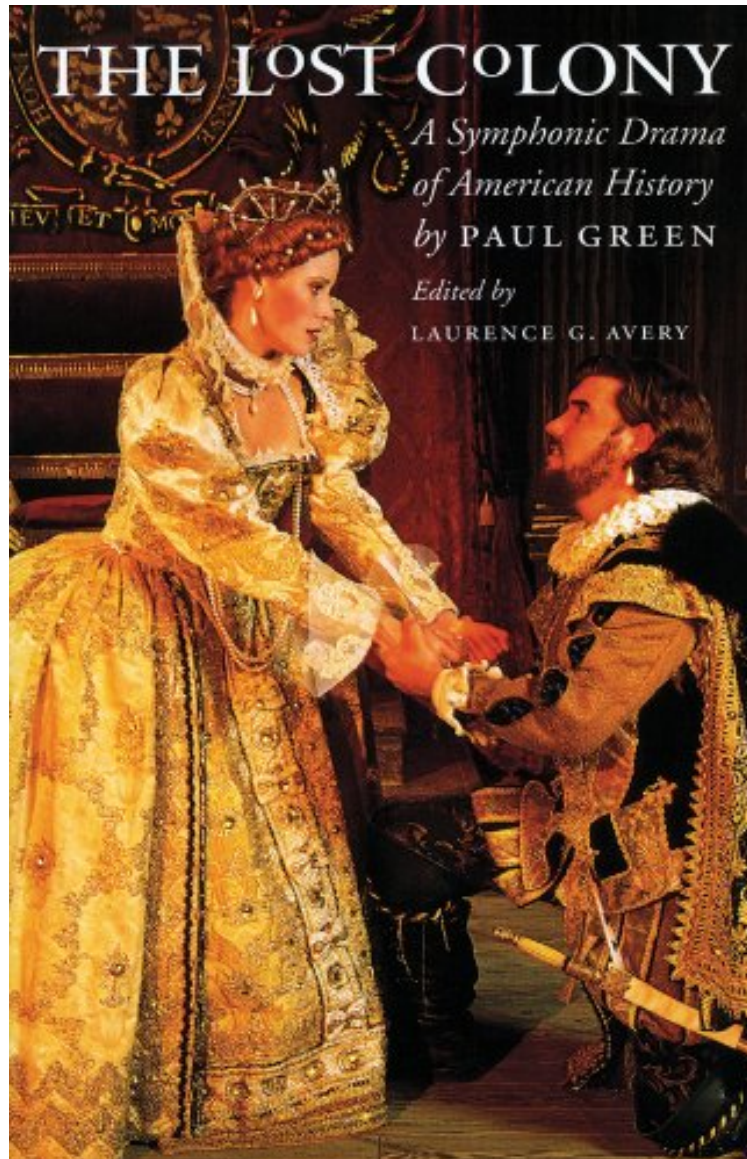


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The Lost Colony: A Symphonic Drama of American History (Chapel Hill Books)

Paul Green

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Paul Green : The Lost Colony: A Symphonic Drama of American History (Chapel Hill Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lost Colony: A Symphonic Drama of American History (Chapel Hill Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The mercantile stake of this period is not fully capturedBy Dr

Jacques COULARDEAU This play is a lot more important than the real event it is supposed to cover. It is a historical reconstruction of an essential, but totally mythical, episode of the English colonization of America. But what's more this reconstruction is aiming at vindicating these settlers as the deepest roots of the American ideal, not to say manifest destiny. The strong points of this mythical and historical event are in the period the play covers 1585-1588. A first group settles but is badly governed by Ralph Lane. For no clear reason he takes his men and attack the Indian village, kills the king of the tribe and many members. The Indians will exterminate and plunder the colony. The second half of the play is about the second colony sent by Sir Walter Raleigh under Governor John White, Captain Ananias Dare and John Borden. This time we follow them till they die. The second element is the reconstruction of the debate in the English court between Queen Elizabeth I and Sir Walter Raleigh. England is being menaced by Philip II of Spain and the Invincible Armada is being assembled in 1588 and the defeat of the Spanish will be complete from Gravelines to the north of Scotland and around. This rivalry is deeply inscribed in the fact that Philip II was married to Mary I, the daughter of Catherine of Aragon, Henry VIII's first wife, and the half-sister of Elizabeth I. As such Philip II considers the English crown is his own property and he has to re-conquer England from Elizabeth I. The play shows how Elizabeth is torn between the defense of England first of all and Raleigh's dream of colonizing America. Here one element is missing: the Queen of England per se has no fleet. She had to go to Parliament, to the House of Commons actually, and beg for the merchants to entrust her with their merchant ships. In the same way Sir Walter Raleigh did not have any ships of his own and had to associate with merchants to get the ships he needed for his expeditions. This leads us to a sorry situation in which the merchants had the key to both the defense of the country and the colonization of America. The latter objective was purely pushed aside. It was the primal interest of the Queen of England and of the merchants of England to defeat the Spanish fleet, and Spain in general, to open the oceans and America to their commerce, their ambition and their conquest. Sir Walter Raleigh did not have the smallest say in such a decision. It is though during that period in front of this Spanish aggression that the real conquest of northern America by the English was made possible and John Smith later on (1607-1616) will impose a treatment of the Indians that will be ruthless and violent by principle because of the failure of this here first colonization that failed because of the too gentle approach of the colonists, at least so is implied. At the same time the play here shows how the reckless killing of the king of the tribe by Ralph Lane led to an immediate drama, the killing of the first colony, and then to a second drama, the extermination of the second colony. John Smith will succeed because he will have the chance of having more and better trained soldiers, more and more adventurous colonists (many being the scum of society) and more means and regular delivery of supplies and equipment from England. The practice of exchanging children hostages to keep peace was typical of John Smith governance, though it could appear as absolutely barbaric, even though few of these children hostages ended badly. The play insists very much on the basic motivation of these colonists: to create from scratch a nation of freedom. The pretention the land was given to them by God is of course probably a true belief at the time, definitely the founding stone of the manifest destiny of the USA later on, but it is absolutely unacceptable from any human, humane and historical point of view, not to speak of the famous state of law that is not based on divine law, not even at the time in England. The land was plainly stolen from the regular and legitimate inhabitants who are treated like some kind of second-zone people who have to support the English or die. This arrogance is disguised in the form of patriotism, loyalty to the English Queen and flag, loyalty to God and his will that makes them the real masters of the whole America. Yet we also have to understand that reference to God's will, law or whatever is the only way these colonists can find some logic and support in some their actions they know are wrong: particularly in England the ownership of the land was sacred since the Magna Carta in 1215. The depicting of the great suffering of the second and last colony on Roanoke Island known as the Lost Colony that only left behind one word carved in some tree "Croatoan," and particularly their starving to death is very romantic in the dilemma between being exterminated by the Spanish who have just arrived, having to surrender to the Spanish to be eventually fed, or going away to Croatoan where there is some game and the Indians who already moved there are rather friendly. Yet they disappeared completely and no one knows what happened to them. Paul Green is just imagining a feasible situation, but it probably has absolutely no true reality. And it does not matter except that the recollection of this Lost Colony will be in the head of John Smith some twenty years later. This time they will succeed because they will have the merchants on their side, their ruthlessness on their side and Pocahontas forced to be on their side will help slightly - though it is a lot more than just slightly - with tobacco growing. An interesting play nevertheless in which Shakespeare nearly became a doomed colonist but was saved by Sir Walter Raleigh who encouraged him in going on with his writing and performing. Dr Jacques COULARDEAU 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great history of the play and well researched By K. Peterson I was in this show back in 1975, and have been looking for a copy for a long time. The book is wonderfully researched and there are many facts that most people would not know if they didn't read this book. Over the years, there have been several revisions of the script and most of the revisions are contained in this book. It is fascinating how attitudes have changed over the years and how the script has changed to accommodate current ethnic beliefs. I give this book full marks for the research and full script that is included.

In 1937, *The Lost Colony*, Paul Green's dramatic retelling of the founding and mysterious disappearance of the

Roanoke Island colony, opened to standing-room-only audiences and rave reviews. Since then, the beloved outdoor drama has played to more than 3 million people, and it is still going strong. Produced by the Roanoke Island Historical Association at the Waterside Theater near Manteo, North Carolina, *The Lost Colony* has run for more than sixty summers almost without interruption. (Production was suspended during World War II, when the threat of German submarines prowling the coast made an extended blackout necessary.) The model for modern outdoor theater, *The Lost Colony* combines song, dance, drama, special effects, and music to breathe life into shadowy legend. This rendering of the play's text, edited and with an introduction by Laurence Avery, brings this pioneering work back into print.

I first read Paul Green's "*The Lost Colony*" 55 years ago when I was 20. I was moved by it then, and I was moved by it again as I read this printing of the text. (Andy Griffith) I first read Paul Green's "*The Lost Colony*" 55 years ago when I was 20. I was moved by it then, and I was moved by it again as I read this printing of the text. (Andy Griffith) Americans take great pride in "*The Lost Colony*" because it so brilliantly dramatizes the extraordinary courage, the depth of integrity, and the devotion to freedom that are the hallmarks of the American character. It is the taproot of our moral fiber. (Scott J. Parker, Director of the Institute of Outdoor Drama, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) I first read Paul Green's *The Lost Colony* 55 years ago when I was 20. I was moved by it then, and I was moved by it again as I read this printing of the text. I was a member of *The Lost Colony* cast when I was 21. I played the first soldier in the scene with Old Tom and a colonist. Beginning when I was 23, I played Sir Walter Raleigh for 5 seasons. I had a great time and learned a lot. Thanks to *The Lost Colony*.--Andy Griffith Americans take great pride in *The Lost Colony* because it so brilliantly dramatizes the extraordinary courage, the depth of integrity, and the devotion to freedom that are the hallmarks of the American character. It is the taproot of our moral fiber. As Paul Green would have wanted, the play brings out the best in Americans. You cannot fail to be inspired and uplifted when you read this new edition of such a remarkable dramatization of our heritage.--Scott J. Parker, Director of the Institute of Outdoor Drama, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill About the Author Winner of the 1927 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Paul Green (1894-1981) taught philosophy and drama at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was a native of Harnett County, North Carolina.