

SHOW INTEL

Season 2023-2024 | Issue 2: Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*



RICHARD THOMAS
ATTICUS FINCH
 in
HARPER LEE'S
TO KILL A
MOCKINGBIRD
 A new play by
AARON SORKIN
 Directed by
BARTLETT SHER



"FIVE STARS. UNMISSABLE AND UNFORGETTABLE. ALL RISE FOR THE MIRACLE THAT IS 'MOCKINGBIRD'. A LANDMARK PRODUCTION OF AN AMERICAN CLASSIC."

RollingStone PETER TRAVERS



"A 'MOCKINGBIRD' FOR OUR MOMENT. BEAUTIFUL, ELEGIAC, SATISFYING, EVEN EXHILARATING. EVERY OUNCE OF KNOW-HOW AVAILABLE AT THE HIGHEST ECHELONS OF THEATRE HAS BEEN APPLIED TO ENSURE ITS SUCCESS."

The New York Times JESSE GREEN

ABOUT THE PLAY

Told from the point of view of the three young protagonists, Scout & Jem Finch, and their friend Dill Harris, *Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird* presents a nuanced portrayal of the events made famous in the 1960 novel. From the presentation of small-town life to the court case central to the novel's plot, the play immerses us in the world of 1930s Maycomb, Alabama while raising questions that are still relevant today.

FUN FACTS

- The novel has been translated into more than 40 languages and has sold over 40 million copies worldwide.
- The character of Atticus Finch was inspired by Harper Lee's father, Amasa Coleman Lee. Harper Lee gave Gregory Peck her late father's watch, which he wore when he accepted the film's Academy Award for Best Actor.
- Dill Harris was loosely based on her childhood friend, writer Truman Capote (*Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *In Cold Blood*).
- In 2003, the American Film Institute named Atticus Finch the greatest movie hero of all time.
- Harper Lee was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contributions to literature in 2007.
- Richard Thomas has played the role of Atticus Finch since the national tour launched in 2022.
- Director Bartlett Sher's recent productions seen at the Palace Theater include *My Fair Lady* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

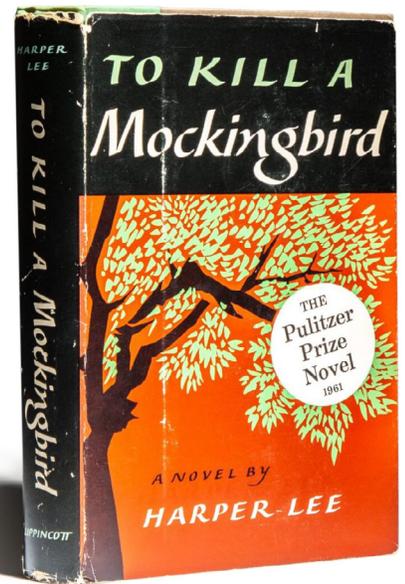


Photo Credit: National tour photo by Julieta Cervantes

FROM SCREEN TO STAGE

Harper Lee's debut novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published in 1960 and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1961. It has never been out of print since its publication, and both the book and its author have received many honors and awards.

In 1962, the book was made into a film starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch, with a screenplay by Horton Foote. The film was a huge hit, won three Oscars and was nominated for five more.

Harper Lee turned down most requests to turn her novel into a play, television drama, or even a musical. In 2017, playwright and screenwriter Aaron Sorkin (*The West Wing*, *A Few Good Men*) was approached by producers to adapt the novel for Broadway. The play, directed by Bartlett Sher, opened in New York in 2018 and in London in 2020. It was nominated for 9 Tony Awards in 2019 and garnered 1 for Best Actress. **It is now the most successful American play in Broadway history.**

Watch the trailer for
Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird



SPOTLIGHT ON MARY BADHAM

- **Mary Badham played Scout in the 1962 film** and was the youngest person to be nominated for an Academy Award (Best Supporting Actress) at the time. **Ms. Badham now plays the role of the neighbor Mrs. Henry Dubose in this national tour.**
- She credits her film co-stars Gregory Peck (Atticus Finch) and Brock Peters (Tom Robinson) as being important role models in her life. Her older brother is film and television director John Badham.
- Since her film debut as Scout, Mary has traveled the world promoting the book and film's message about social injustice, including at the National Endowment of the Arts and twice at the White House.



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