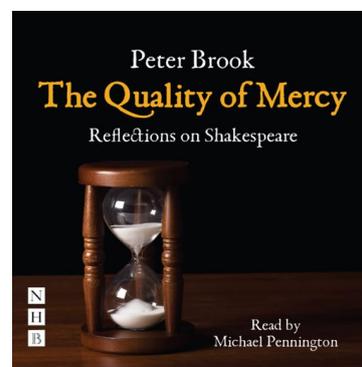
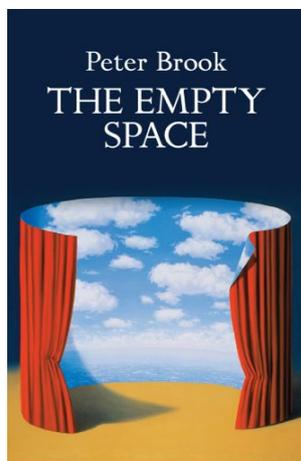
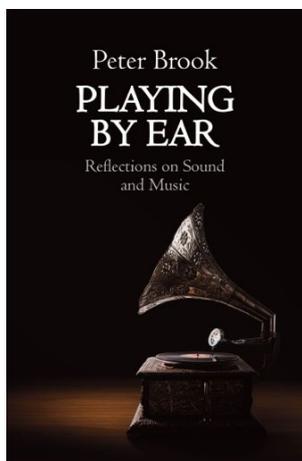


Coming soon from Nick Hern Books

## Three new releases from ‘greatest living theatre director’ Peter Brook



Leading theatre publishers Nick Hern Books are to publish three new releases – each in a different format – by world-renowned theatre-maker Peter Brook, described by the *Independent* as ‘our greatest living theatre director’. The trio includes a new paperback collection of essays, *Playing by Ear*, the first digital release of theatre-writing classic *The Empty Space*, and an audiobook of Brook’s *The Quality of Mercy*, read by leading actor Michael Pennington.

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***Playing by Ear: Reflections on Music and Sound***  
£9.99 paperback, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-84842-831-7

In this collection of new essays, the world-renowned director offers unique and personal insights into sound and music – from the surprising impact of Broadway musicals on his famous *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, to the allure of applause, and on to the ultimate empty space: silence.

It is studded throughout with episodes from the author’s own life and career in opera, theatre and film – including working on many of his most notable productions, and intimate first-hand accounts of collaborating with leading figures including Truman Capote, Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh – and ranges across musical styles and cultures from around the world.

*Playing by Ear* is full of Brook’s shafts of insight and perception, and written with his customary wit and wisdom. It is a rich companion to his earlier reflections on Shakespeare in *The Quality of Mercy* and on language and meaning in *Tip of the Tongue*.

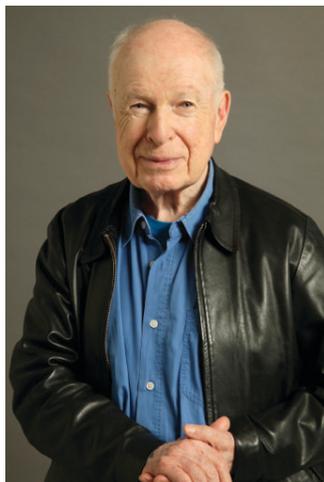
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Two of Brook’s earlier books are also being released in new formats:

- Available in ebook for the first time since its original publication over fifty years ago in 1968, ***The Empty Space*** (ISBN: 978-1-78850-152-1, £7.99), Brook’s seminal book and an acknowledged classic of theatre writing, sets out many of the ideas about theatre which have informed his lifelong work as a theatre director.
- Newly released as an audiobook read by leading actor Michael Pennington, ***The Quality of Mercy***, first published in 2013, sees Brook debate the questions central to our understanding of Shakespeare, and revisit plays he has directed with notable brilliance.

**[CONTINUED OVERLEAF – PAGE 1 OF 2]**

## About the author



Peter Brook is one of the world's best-known theatre directors. Outstanding in a career full of remarkable achievements are his productions of *Titus Andronicus* (1955) with Laurence Olivier, *King Lear* (1962) with Paul Scofield, and *The Marat/Sade* (1964) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1970), both for the Royal Shakespeare Company. Since moving to Paris and establishing the International Centre for Theatre Research in 1970 and the International Centre for Theatre Creation when he opened the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord in 1974, he has produced a series of events which push at the boundaries of theatre, such as *The Conference of the Birds* (1976), *The Ik* (1975), *The Mahabharata* (1985) and *The Tragedy of Carmen* (1981) to name but a few. His films include *Lord of the Flies* (1963), *King Lear* (1970), *The Mahabharata* (1989), *Tell Me Lies* (restored 2013) and *Meetings with Remarkable Men* (restored 2017).

His hugely influential books, from *The Empty Space* (1968) to *Tip of the Tongue* (2017), have been published in many languages throughout the world.

## Scheduled author events

'A Conversation with Peter Brook': National Theatre, Tuesday 22 October, 6pm-6.45pm  
Peter Brook speaks to Mark Lawson. Tickets £9 (£6 concessions)

'Peter Brook and Shakespeare': Institut français, Saturday 26 October, 10am-6pm  
A day-long conference featuring Peter Brook in conversation with Sir Trevor Nunn.  
Tickets £25 (£10 for members)

## Praise for *The Quality of Mercy*

**'Contains within its scintillating reflections the essence of all that Peter Brook has learned over a lifetime. Whoever imagined that a book about Shakespeare could also be such fun?'** *Wall Street Journal*

**'Exquisite... enthralling... This short, modest and brilliant book does more than many more grandiose tomes to renew the reader's fascination with the plays, and the theatre-goer's wonder at the extraordinary and diverse sensations locked up inside the First Folio. It should be required reading at all universities and drama clubs'** *Guardian*

**'This volume positively seethes and sparkles with ideas... provides not only acute insights into the texts, but intriguing details of performance history, and a few morsels of grand theatrical gossip'** *Scotsman*

## Praise for *The Empty Space*

**'A brilliant book ... should be read by the many besides the passionate few to whom it will be required reading'** *Telegraph*

For further information and review copies, contact Jon Barton, Marketing Manager, [jon@nickhernbooks.co.uk](mailto:jon@nickhernbooks.co.uk) or 020 8749 4953