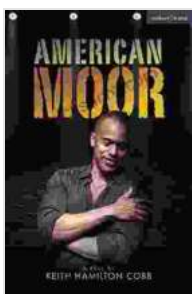


# Exploring American Moor: Modern Plays by Keith Hamilton Cobb

In the realm of modern American theater, Keith Hamilton Cobb's "American Moor" plays stand as a provocative and incisive exploration of race, identity, and the enduring legacy of Shakespeare's "Othello." Through a series of compelling works, Cobb examines the complex intersections of race, power, and masculinity, offering fresh perspectives on the timeless themes of the original play.

## Race and Representation

Central to Cobb's plays is the notion of racial representation and the ways in which it shapes our understanding of the Moorish figure. In "American Moor," Cobb presents an African American actor, Paul Robeson, attempting to portray Othello on Broadway in the 1940s. Robeson's struggles with the role and the racism he encounters expose the limitations of theatrical representation and the challenges of embodying black characters in a predominantly white society.



### American Moor (Modern Plays) by Keith Hamilton Cobb

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 822 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 72 pages





## **Masculinity and Identity**

Cobb's plays also delve into the construction of masculinity, particularly black masculinity, in relation to the Moorish figure. In "Othello: The Remix," a contemporary retelling of the original, Cobb explores the consequences of toxic masculinity and the pressures faced by young black men in modern

society. The play exposes the ways in which stereotypes and expectations about black masculinity can lead to violence and self-destruction.

## Theatrical Innovation

Beyond their thematic depth, Cobb's plays are notable for their theatrical innovation. "American Moor" features documentary-style elements, incorporating archival footage and historical research into the performance. "Othello: The Remix" uses rap, hip-hop, and spoken word to create a dynamic and engaging narrative. Cobb's innovative techniques challenge traditional theater conventions and bring a fresh urgency to the exploration of his themes.

## Impact and Legacy

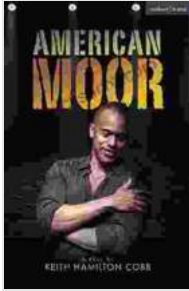
Keith Hamilton Cobb's "American Moor" plays have had a significant impact on American theater and beyond. They have sparked important conversations about race, representation, and masculinity, and have inspired other artists to explore similar themes. Cobb's work continues to resonate with audiences, offering a powerful and provocative examination of the complex intersections of identity in contemporary society.

Keith Hamilton Cobb's "American Moor" plays stand as a tour-de-force in modern American drama. By re-examining the Moorish figure through a contemporary lens, Cobb challenges our understanding of race, identity, and representation. His innovative theatrical techniques and incisive storytelling create a compelling and thought-provoking experience that continues to captivate and challenge audiences.

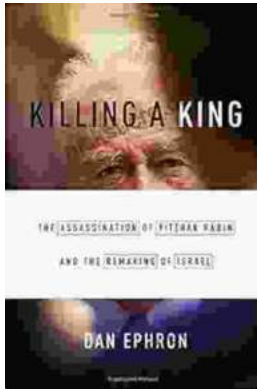
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