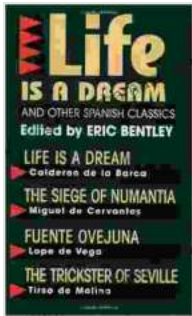


# Life Is a Dream and Other Spanish Classics: Exploring Eric Bentley's Dramatic Repertoire



## "Life Is a Dream" and Other Spanish Classics (Eric Bentley's Dramatic Repertoire Volume Two) by Eric Bentley

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Screen Reader: Supported



**Eric Bentley**, renowned playwright and theatre critic, assembled a remarkable collection of Spanish plays in his seminal work, "Life Is a Dream and Other Spanish Classics." This collection, published in 1957, offers a comprehensive to the rich tapestry of Spanish theatre from the Golden Age to the modern era.

In this article, we will delve into Eric Bentley's Dramatic Repertoire, examining the significance of his selections and exploring the enduring legacy of Spanish drama.

## The Golden Age of Spanish Theatre

The Spanish Golden Age, which spanned from the 16th to the 17th century, witnessed an unprecedented flourishing of theatrical activity. Playwrights such as **Lope de Vega** and **Pedro Calderon de la Barca** created

masterpieces that transcended national boundaries and established the Spanish theatre as a major force in European drama.

## Lope de Vega



Known as the "Spanish Shakespeare," Lope de Vega was an incredibly prolific writer, penning over 1,500 plays. His works, marked by their fast-

paced action, humor, and lyrical beauty, captivated audiences and set the standard for Spanish theatre.

## **Pedro Calderon de la Barca**

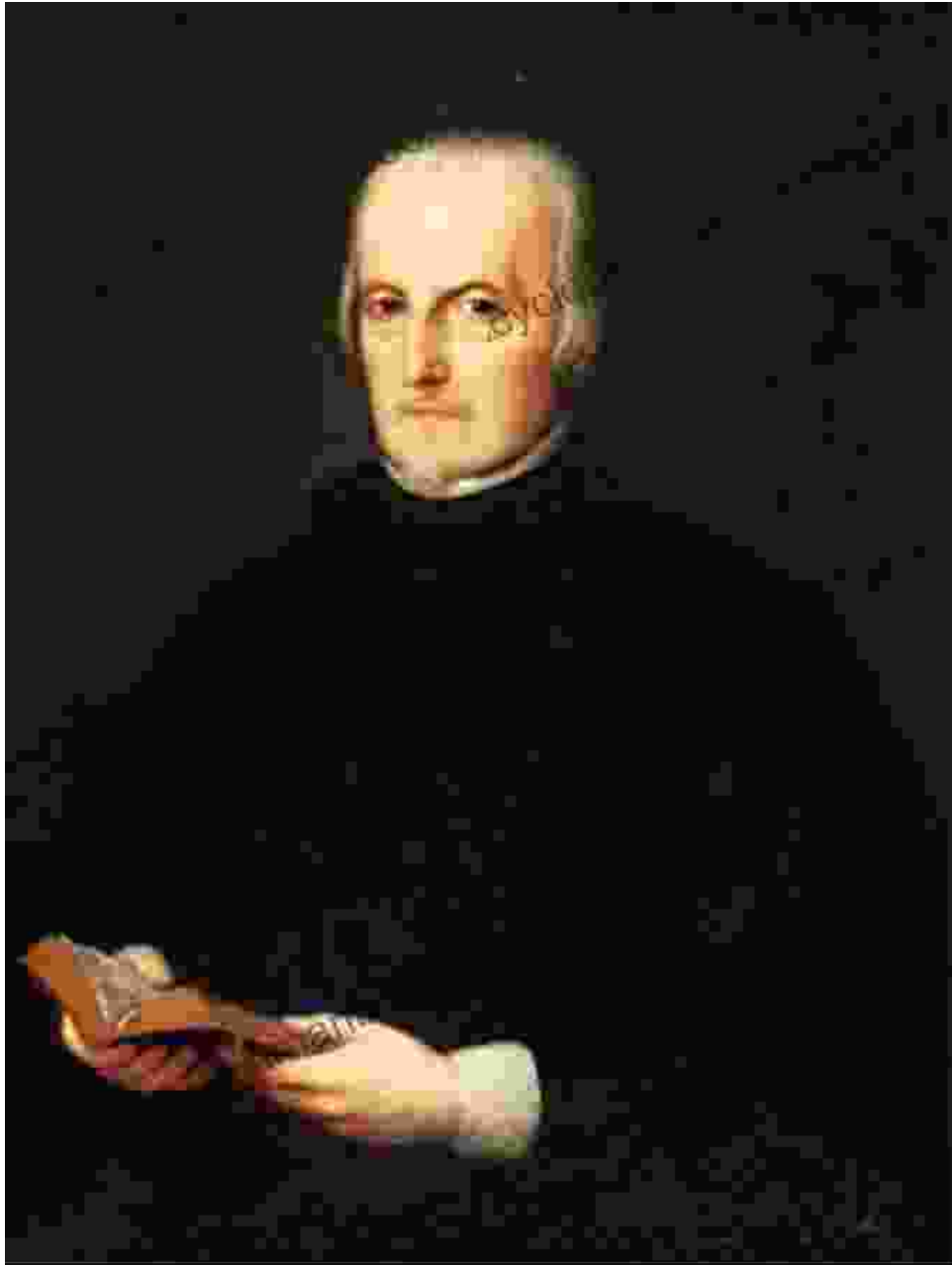


Fig. 2: Pedro Calderon de la Barca

Pedro Calderon de la Barca, considered one of the greatest playwrights in Spanish literature, is renowned for his philosophical dramas that explore complex themes of fate, free will, and human destiny. His most famous play, "Life Is a Dream," is a profound meditation on the nature of reality and illusion.

## **Eric Bentley's Selections**

Eric Bentley's "Life Is a Dream and Other Spanish Classics" includes a carefully curated selection of plays that showcase the breadth and depth of Spanish drama. The collection encompasses works from various periods, including:

- **The Golden Age:** Lope de Vega's "The Dog in the Manger" and Pedro Calderon de la Barca's "Life Is a Dream"
- **The Romantic Era:** Jose Zorrilla's "Don Juan Tenorio"
- **The 20th Century:** Federico Garcia Lorca's "Blood Wedding" and Alejandro Casona's "The Three-Cornered Hat"

Each play offers a unique insight into the Spanish cultural landscape, exploring themes such as love, honor, loyalty, and the search for meaning in life.

## **Enduring Legacy of Spanish Drama**

The Spanish plays included in Eric Bentley's repertoire have had a profound impact on world literature and theatre. They have been translated into numerous languages and performed around the globe, inspiring countless adaptations and reinterpretations.

The enduring legacy of Spanish drama can be attributed to its:

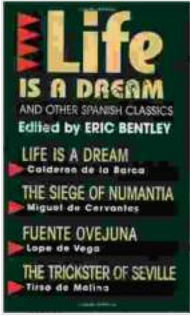
- **Rich Literary Heritage:** Spanish playwrights drew upon a vast literary tradition, incorporating elements of folk tales, history, and mythology into their works.
- **Cultural Insight:** The plays provide valuable insights into Spanish society and culture, reflecting the values, customs, and beliefs of their time.
- **Universal Themes:** Spanish plays explore universal human themes that resonate with audiences of all backgrounds, making them timeless and relevant.
- **Artistic Innovation:** Spanish playwrights were highly innovative, experimenting with theatrical conventions and creating new forms of dramatic expression.

Eric Bentley's "Life Is a Dream and Other Spanish Classics" is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in exploring the rich tapestry of Spanish theatre. The collection provides a comprehensive to the Spanish Golden Age and beyond, showcasing the brilliance of renowned playwrights such as Lope de Vega and Pedro Calderon de la Barca.

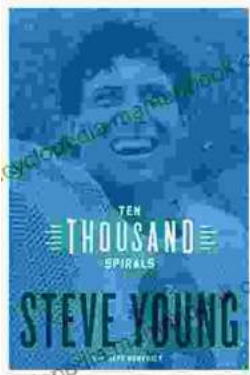
The enduring legacy of Spanish drama is a testament to its artistic merit and the universal themes it explores. These plays continue to captivate audiences worldwide, offering valuable insights into human nature and the nature of existence.

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