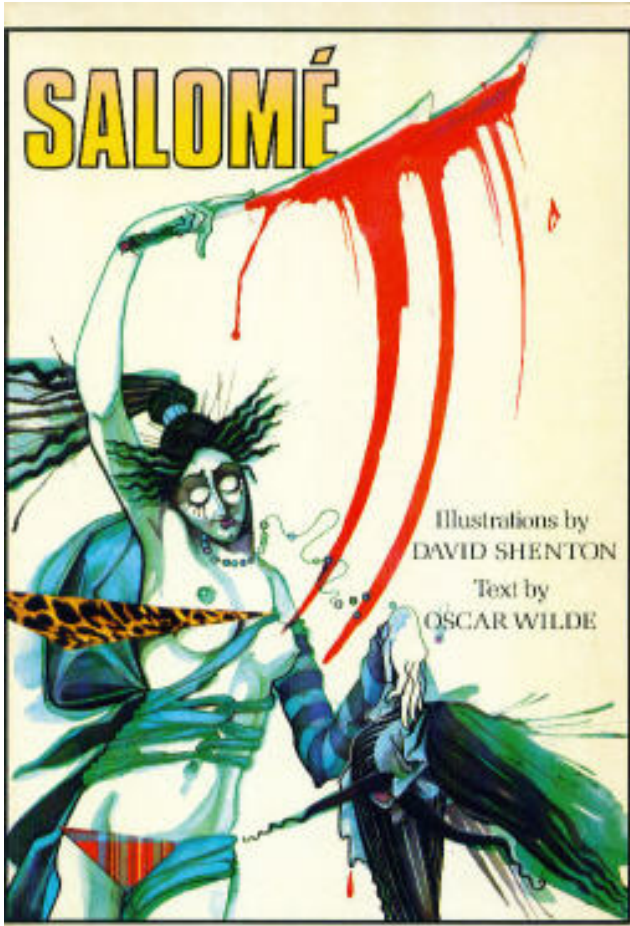

Oscar Wilde

Salome



Title: Salome

Author: Oscar Wilde

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Description

Written originally in French in 1892, Wilde's one-act tragedy *Salome* enacts the biblical tale of a wanton woman's erotic dance and the martyrdom of John the Baptist. This volume reprints the complete text of the first English edition (1894) with illustrations by Aubrey Beardsley, plus "A Note on *Salome*" by Robert Ross.

Insightful reviews

Soham Chakraborty: This will be difficult for me to review, plainly because I don't know anything of biblical characters or the theme. So, putting that apart, I can only try to understand Wilde's usual sorcery with words and the dark and misty environment that he creates with them. There are several long segments spoken by Salome and then by Herod which are exceptionally delicate - full with metaphors - conveying a very potent message to the recipients. Salome speaks about how she fell in love with Jokanaan, which is in fact, a camouflage. A closer look indicates that Salome, who was a stunningly beautiful girl, compared with the moon, never had seen any man who was not intrigued by her beauty. But, Jokanaan wasn't, he was stoic.

Then, on the birthday of king Herod, the king asked Salome to dance the seven veils. And as we get to know about king's gazes turning all over Salome, a hint of the incestuous desire of the king comes into picture. Salome agrees to dance and the king takes an oath to give her anything she wants. What Salome wanted was the head of Jokanaan. Here comes the second part of the long segments, where king Herod frantically tries to dissuade Salome but she sticks to her demand. And after Jokanaan has been beheaded, she kisses him, agonizing over the motionless eyes, the pale lips. Perhaps it indicates of her desire to hold a man who paid no attention to her beauty. And when king departs from the scene, he orders Salome to be killed as well, which was perfectly practiced by the soldiers. It might be interpreted as Salome's love being united with Jokanaan's indignation or something else which I can't fathom.

After I read, I did a little search over the internet and I still can't figure out Wilde's intention or interpretation of the play. What struck me most is the feverish elegance and hysterical charm of words that Salome and Herod produced.

P.S - As said, I have no concrete knowledge about biblical characters. Please pardon if I hit any wrong chord.

Lau: -Reseña Pendiente-

Lavinia: As one can easily guess, Wilde gives his own interpretation of the biblical story of Salome / John the Baptist. Even more than the play itself (actually a lot more) I like love Aubrey Beardsley's illustrations. In fact I love Aubrey Beardsley. Period.



Check out the rest of the illustrations [here](#) .

Emilian Kasemi: darkish and intense!(view spoiler)[SALOME: [Holding the severed head of lokanaan.] Ah! thou wouldst now not undergo me to kiss thy mouth, lokanaan. Well! i'll kiss it now. i'm going to chunk it with my tooth as one bites a ripe fruit. Yes, i'll kiss thy mouth, lokanaan. I stated it; did I no longer say it? I stated it. Ah! i'll kiss it now. yet wherefore dost thou now not examine me, lokanaan? Thine eyes that have been so terrible, so jam-packed with

