

# New for Easter

***Pilate* by Mark Allen Eaton. One act, minimum of 2w, 3m, 5 either for 18 speaking roles. Available from the Radius shop @ £7.**

Radius's new Easter play presents the crucifixion from a Roman perspective: the occupying power which knows that the knife-edge political situation could easily escalate into rebellion, yet never doubts the ultimate strength of sheer brutality.

The play opens at a party where Pilate's future wife Claudia is returning her engagement ring to Pilate's best friend. When Pilate gets his dreamt-of promotion to be governor of Judea he persuades Claudia to go with him and the couple find their precarious personal relationship echoes the national instability.

Claudia becomes a disciple of Jesus and Pilate is tortured by the possibility that his failure to save him might have been tinged by the Freudian prompt of jealousy. But when the risen Christ appears to him he realizes that it makes no difference: Jesus offers salvation to the deepest sinner. A brooding presence over the whole action is the emperor Tiberius, and the play ends with Pilate's ominous recall to Rome.

A past winner of the Christians in Theatre Arts playwriting competition, this one-act script moves fluidly between the ancient and modern worlds and is easy to stage.

**Margaret Hunt**