



Furious Improvisation: How the WPA and a Cast of Thousands Made High Art out of Desperate Times

Susan Quinn

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Under the direction of a five-foot redheaded firecracker, Hallie Flanagan, the Federal Theater Project managed to turn a WPA relief program into a platform for some of the most inventive and cutting-edge theater of its time. This daring experiment by the U.S. government in support of the arts electrified audiences with exciting, controversial productions. Plays like *Voodoo Macbeth* and *The Cradle Will Rock* stirred up politicians by defying segregation and putting the spotlight on social injustice, and the FTP starred some of the greatest figures in twentieth-century American arts—including Orson Welles, John Houseman, and Sinclair Lewis. Susan Quinn brings to life the politics of this desperate era when FDR, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the chain-smoking idealist Harry Hopkins furiously improvised programs to get millions of hungry, unemployed people back to work. Quinn's compelling story of politics and idealism reaches a dramatic climax with the rise of Martin Dies and the House Un-American Activities Committee, which turned the FTP into the first victim of a Red scare that would roil the nation for the next twenty years.

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Spent a free time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book could be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the reserve untitled Furious Improvisation: How the WPA and a Cast of Thousands Made High Art out of Desperate Times can be great book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

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