

## ABSTRACT

### STAGING *THE WOODLANDERS*

This study examines the theoretical process of novel-to-theatrical script adaptation, using Thomas Hardy's Victorian novel *The Woodlanders* as a primary text for theatrical transposition. Moreover, this thesis is an examination of intertextual relationships within written works such as folkloric themes and prior theatrically adapted texts, with the purpose of exposing theatrical adaptation as an integral literary phenomenon within English studies. Specifically, this thesis will address the process of playwriting through novel-to-theatrical-script adaptation, and includes a full-length dramatic script adapted from Thomas Hardy's tragic tale, *The Woodlanders*. The Epilogue examines a prospective theatrical production of the adapted novel, which includes a contemporary appropriation of *The Woodlanders*. The process of adapting novels into theatrical scripts allows for new heights of textual, creative interpretation in the dramatic theater world, providing novels with endless interpretive possibilities through the creative work of theater artists. Essentially, adaptations are essential to the creative advancement of literature itself.

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