



# **The Haitian Trilogy: Plays: Henri Christophe, Drums and Colours, and The Haytian Earth**

*Derek Walcott*

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**Plays by the Nobel-laureate, brought together for the first time**

In the history plays that comprise *The Haitian Trilogy*--*Henri Christophe*, *Drums and Colours* and *The Haytian Earth*--Derek Walcott, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature, uses verse to tell the story of his native West Indies as a four-hundred-year cycle of war, conquest and rebellion.

In *Henri Christophe* and *The Haytian Earth*, Walcott re-casts the legacy of Haiti's violent revolutionaries--led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, Jean Jacques Dessalines and Henri Christophe--whose rebellion established the first black state in the Americas, but whose cruelty becomes a parable of racial pride and corruption. *Drums and Colours*, commissioned in 1958 to celebrate the first parliament in Trinidad, is a grand pageant linking the lives of complex, ambiguous heroes: Columbus and Raleigh; Toussaint; and George William Gordon, a martyr of the constitutional era.

From *Henri Christophe's* high style to the bracing vernacular of *The Haytian Earth*, to the epic scale and scope of *Drums and Colours*, in these plays Walcott, one of our most celebrated poets, carved a place in the modern theater for the history of the West Indies, and a sounding room for his own maturing voice.

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