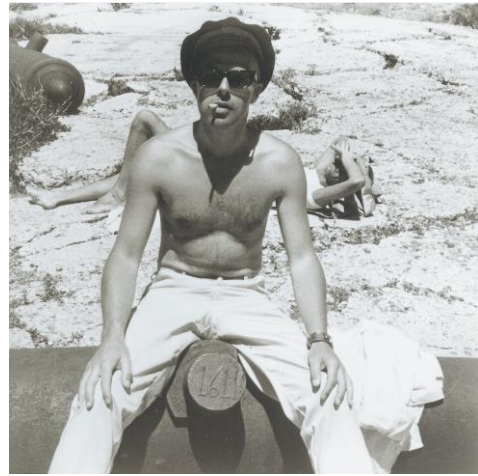


The Joe Orton Collection



Joe Orton (left) and Kenneth Halliwell (right) on holiday in North Africa, mid-1960s

In 1962 aspiring writer Joe Orton and his partner and mentor Kenneth Halliwell were each sentenced to six months imprisonment for 'malicious damage' to Islington Public Library books.

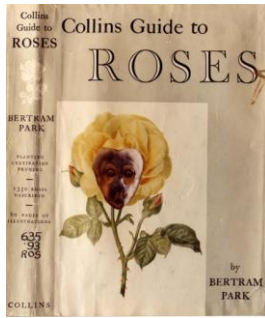
They were found guilty of theft and defacing library book covers by adding alternative images from other sources or inserting new text and narrative. In the process Orton and Halliwell produced 'guerrilla artwork', motivated by the "endless shelves of rubbish" that they found in public libraries.

The 'collage' work had begun after Orton and Halliwell moved to Islington in 1959. The couple also removed illustrations from library art books to 'wallpaper' their bed-sit flat at 25 Noel Road.

Imprisonment proved difficult for Kenneth Halliwell and he tried to commit suicide while inside. Joe Orton's incarceration, however, proved inspirational and he embarked upon what was to be a successful but all too brief writing career, cut short by his murder at the hand of his jealous partner in 1967.

Fortunate to survive after the court case, the now infamous doctored book covers form the 'Joe Orton Collection' held at Islington Local History Centre.

- View [Malicious Damage](#), an online exhibition about the life and crimes of Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell in Islington.

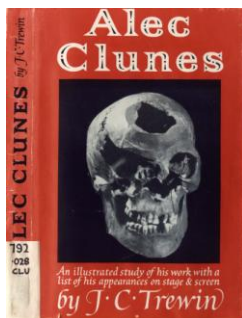


Collins Guide to Roses

1959 – 1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

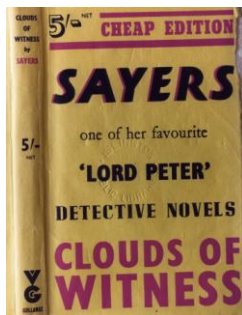


Alec Clunes

1959 - 1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



Clouds of Witness

Front Cover

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



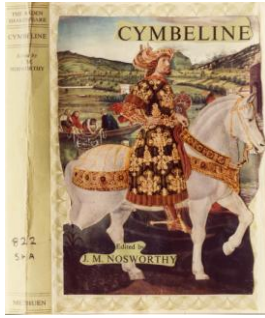
Clouds of Witness

Back Cover

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

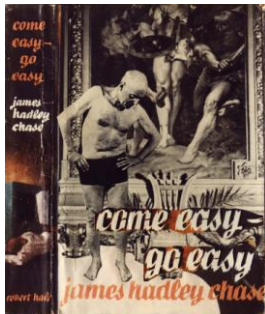


Cymbeline

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

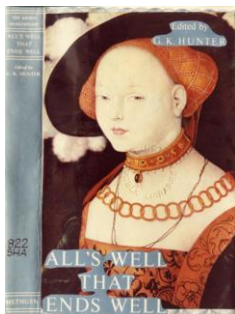


Come Easy Go Easy

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

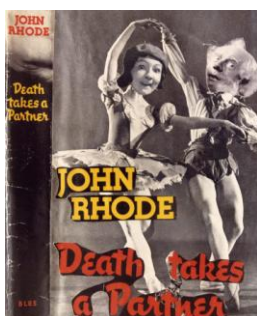


All West That Ends Well

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

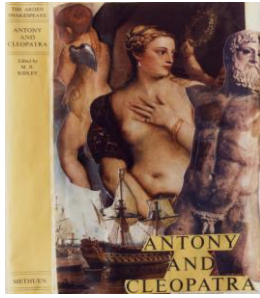


Death Takes a Partner

1959 - 1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

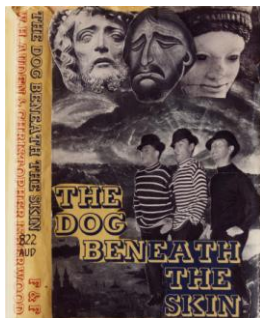


Antony and Cleopatra

1959- 1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

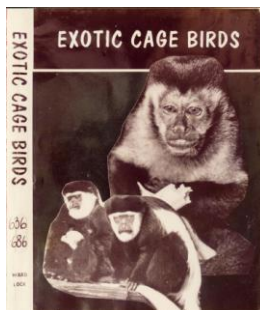


The Dog Beneath The Skin

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



Exotic Cage Birds

1959- 1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

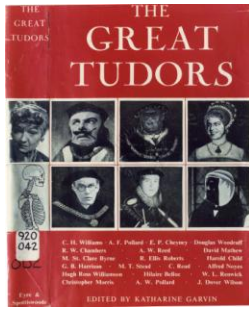


Golk

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

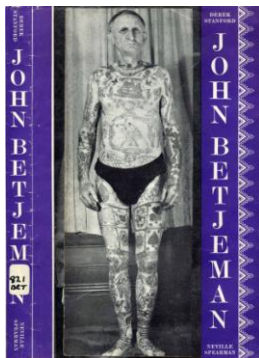


The Great Tudors

1959- 1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

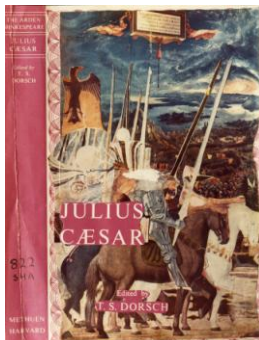


John Betjeman

1959- 1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

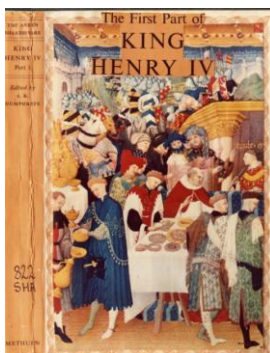


Julius Caesar

1959- 1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

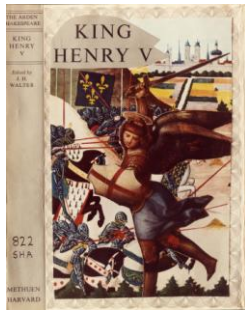


King Henry IV

1959- 1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

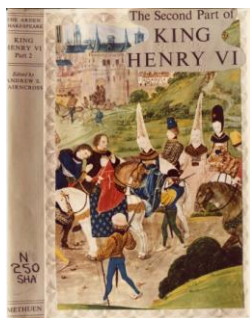


King Henry V

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



King Henry VI

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

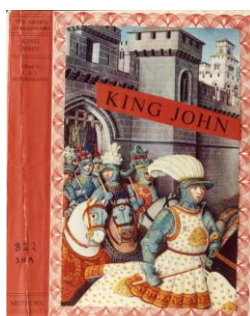


King Henry VIII

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



King John

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



King Lear

1959-1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



King Richard II

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

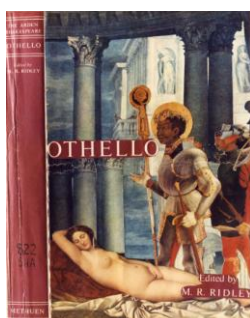


Macbeth

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

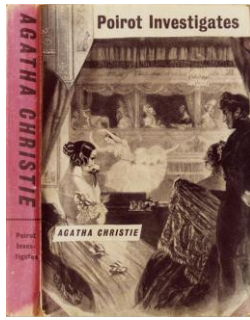


Othello

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

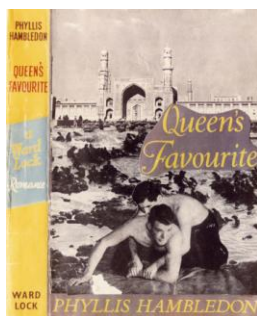


Poirot Investigates

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



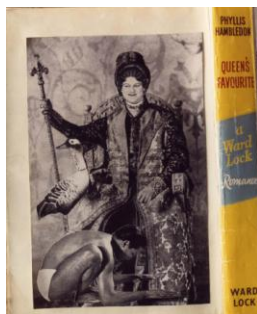
Queen's Favourite

Front Cover

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



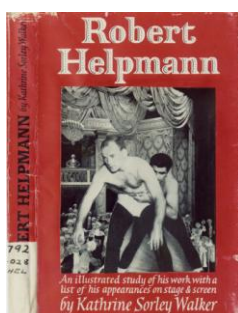
Queen's Favourite

Back Cover

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



Robert Helpmann

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

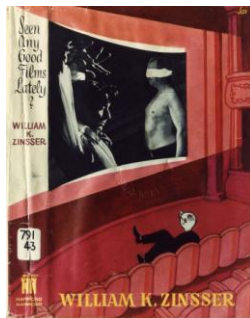


The Secret of Chimneys

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

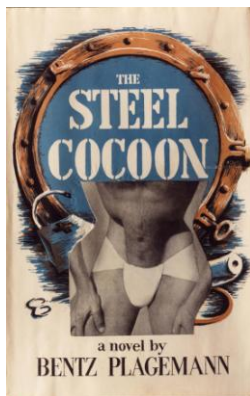


Seen Any Good Films Lately?

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

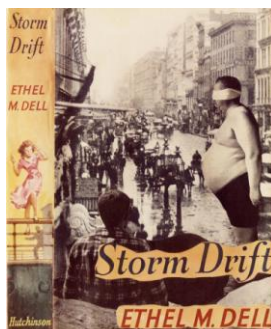


Steel Cocoon

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

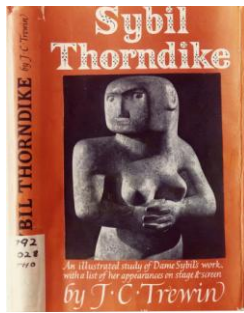


Storm Drift

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

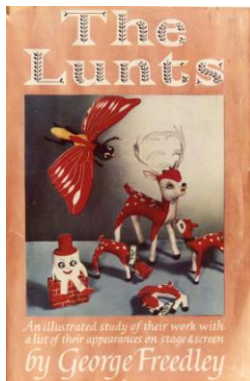


Sybil Thorndike

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

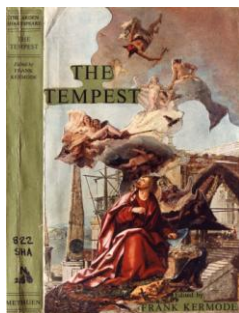


The Lunts

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

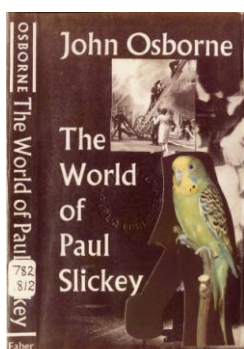


The Tempest

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



The World of Paul Slickey

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

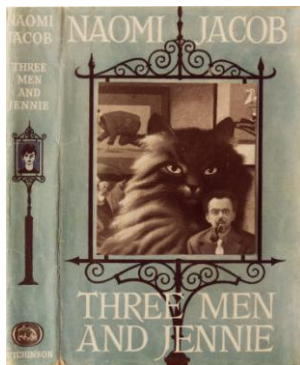


The 3 Faces of Eve

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



Three Men and Jennie

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



Timon of Athens

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell

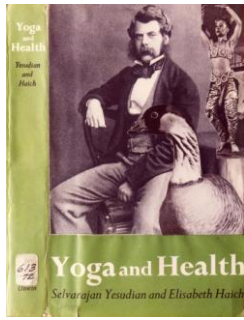


Titus Andronicus

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell



Yoga and Health

1959 -1962

Book Cover Collage

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell