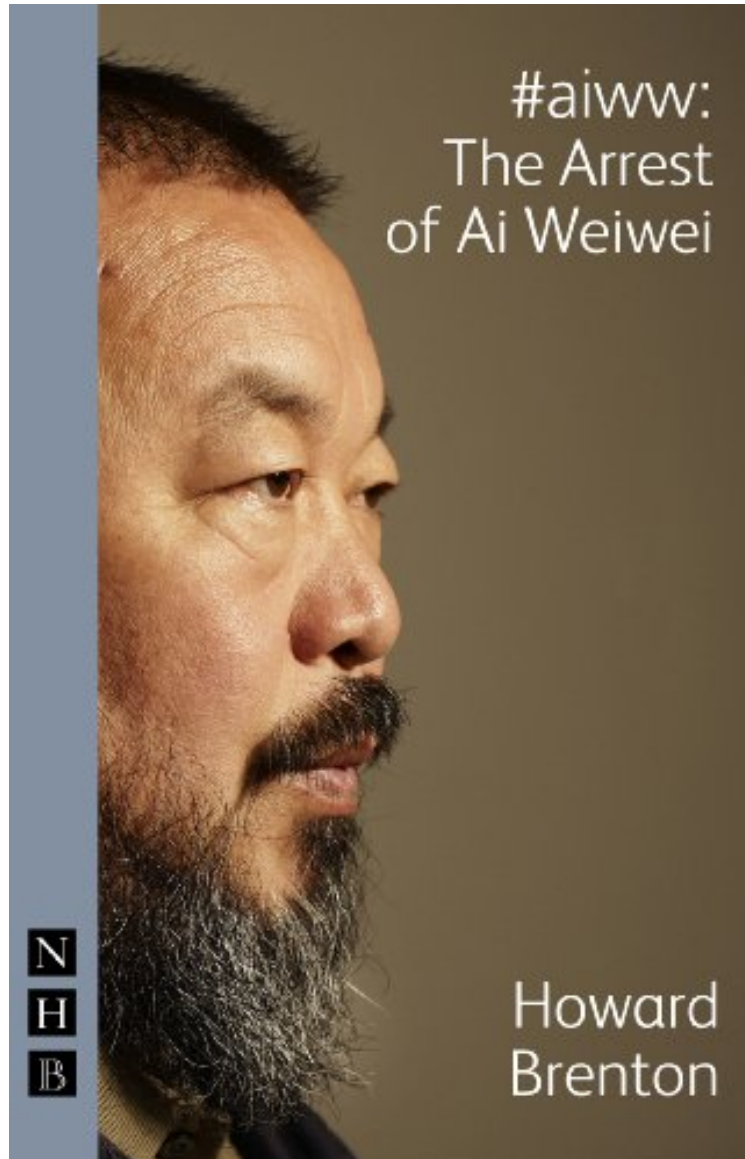



(Free) #aiww: The Arrest of Ai Weiwei (NHB Modern Plays)

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Howard Brenton

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Howard Brenton : #aiww: The Arrest of Ai Weiwei (NHB Modern Plays) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised #aiww: The Arrest of Ai Weiwei (NHB Modern Plays):

A timely play based on the true story of an imprisoned Nobel Laureate. On 3 April 2011, as he was boarding a flight to Taipei, the Chinese Artist Ai Weiwei was arrested at Beijing Airport. Advised merely that his travel "could damage state security", he was escorted to a van by officials after which he disappeared for 81 days. On his release, the

government claimed that his imprisonment related to tax evasion. Howard Brenton's new play is based on Ai Weiwei's account in Barnaby Martin's book *Hanging Man*, in which he told the story of that imprisonment - by turns surreal, hilarious, and terrifying. A portrait of the artist in extreme conditions, it is also an affirmation of the centrality of art and freedom of speech in civilised society. The play premiered at Hampstead Theatre in April 2013, in a production directed by James Macdonald. 'Moving, scary, gripping, inventive and at times laugh-out-loud funny' Telegraph 'Excellent... like a mix of Kafka and Bennett' Guardian 'Tremendously powerful' Financial Times

'moving, scary, gripping, inventive and at times laugh-out-loud-funny' - Telegraph 'excellent... like a mix of Kafka and Bennett' - Guardian 'tremendously powerful' - Financial Times About the Author HOWARD BRENTON'S plays include *55 Days*, *Anne Boleyn*, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*, *Never So Good*, *In Extremis*, an adaptation of Goethe's *Faust*, *Paul and Berlin Bertie* all published by NHB. Other plays include a version of Danton's Death, *The Romans in Britain*, *Pravda* and *Weapons of Happiness*. Brenton was also one of the core writers on the BBC's BAFTA-winning espionage series *Spooks*.