

Salome

The Image of a Woman Who Never Was



Rosina Neginsky

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Salome: The Image of a Woman Who Never Was

By Rosina Neginsky



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Although the root of the Hebrew name “Salome” is “peaceful”, the image spawned by the most famous woman to carry that name has been anything but peaceful. She and her story have long been linked to the beheading of John the Baptist, as described in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, since Salome was the supposed catalyst for the prophet’s execution.

This history of the myth of Salome describes the process by which that myth was created, the roles that art, literature, theology and music

played in that creation, and how Salome’s image as evil varied from one period to another according to the prevailing cultural myths surrounding women.

“In a remarkable display of interdisciplinary erudition, Rosina Neginsky explores the Salome myth across the centuries, in different artistic media. This is a fine book, rich in sensitive analyses and new interpretations of a wide variety of works of visual art, literature and music.”

– Peter Cooke, Senior Lecturer in French Studies, University of Manchester, UK

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