

## BREAK OF DAY by STEPHEN FIFE

### A Paragraph Description

This is a play about the family van Gogh in 1880s Netherlands. It revolves around the relationship between the 27 year old Vincent van Gogh and his father Theodorus, a small town Lutheran minister. The taking-off point is Vincent's decision to become a painter, after having failed as an evangelical missionary in the Belgian coal mines. Soon after Vincent's return—a condition of Theo's financial support—he falls in love with his recently-widowed cousin Kay. This eventually leads to a final life-and-death confrontation with his father, in a clash of Art and Religion—the spiritual compulsions of the artist vs. the social prerogatives of the clergyman. With “Christian values” having become such a loaded phrase, this examination of the Christian ethic and artistic freedom has a genuine timeliness. The play requires 7 actors and runs two hours with an intermission.

### Reviews from the 1999 Hollywood Production

BREAK OF DAY has been produced once, in the Lillian Theatre in Hollywood in 1999. The reviewer from the Los Angeles Times hailed the play's “*Searing intensity*” while Backstage West called it “*A work of Art*” and “*A fine new chapter in a book we thought we'd already read.*” The LA Weekly termed it “*A quintessential tale of an emerging, passionate, creative force,*” while the critic from Entertainment Today wrote, “*This play leads lovers of theater to have hope that there is a future for brilliant writers.*” The original run was extended several weeks. The script has been re-worked and improved extensively since then.