This is a study of Peter Shaffer's play, *The royal hunt of the sun*, in the light of Antonin Arthaud's theatrical theory, made explicit in his book, *The theatre and its double*, where two main points become evident: the use of the language of the mise-en-scène and the use of the stage-auditorium as a single whole. Both lead to a single aim, the experience of the theatre as a kind of ritual.

The elements of the play, from the non-linguistic to the most evidently verbal ones, constitute a particular theatre language. While it is being uttered, it serves the purpose to rouse special feelings in the spectators, who then will be identified with the actors. As a consequence, the performance becomes a ritual, which illustrates Arthaud's influence.