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The Oxford Illustrated History Of Theatre



Synopsis

The Oxford Illustrated History of Theatre, an authoritative and lavishly illustrated new history, celebrates the stage's greatest achievements over 4,500 years, from festival performances in ancient Egypt to international, multicultural drama in the late twentieth century, and from Sophocles and Aristophanes to George Gershwin and Harold Pinter. Here are the playwrights, plays, actors, directors, producers, songwriters, famous playhouses, dramatic movements, and more, accessibly and attractively arranged so that everyone with a passion for the stage can follow the glorious procession of this triumphant art throughout history and across cultures. The Oxford Illustrated History of the Theatre guides readers through the full spectrum of dramatic representation as well as giving due weight to how the scene backstage evolved through the centuries--the role of musicians, light, sound, and equipment, and the art of set design--and to the crucial role of the audience and critics. Finally, there are stimulating essays on the history of Asian theater and a concluding account of theater since 1970 by editor John Russell Brown that highlights the contributions of our best-loved contemporary playwrights, directors, and lyricists. Spectacular illustrations throughout bring the very visual nature of theater to life, serving as dramatic accompaniment to the text. The Oxford Illustrated History of Theatre is an essential source of reference for anyone interested in the stage, from students and teachers to seasoned professionals and starry-eyed fans.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Brown (theater, Univ. of Michigan; associate, National Theatre of Great Britain) edits this scholarly work by 16 specialists who "have chosen what seems most vital in their various parts of the past and have tried to share their sense of its importance and pleasures." They succeed in presenting their respective histories of the theater in the larger literary, social, and political contexts. European and other Western theaters between the Renaissance and 1700 are emphasized, while the earliest theaters of Greece, Rome, Christian Europe, Africa, and the Americas, "World Theater" of the Orient, and theater since 1970 receive far less coverage. But single-volume histories are by definition selective. Further reading and a chronology supplement each chapter. Despite its minute print, this excellent book is highly recommended for all academic and large public libraries with strong theater collections. ?Ming-ming Shen Kuo, Ball St. Univ. Lib., Muncie, Ind. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Well-written, utterly absorbing, this general history of theater provides a remarkably comprehensive overview of world theater, thanks to editor Brown's inspired idea of structuring the book as a series of connected essays. Each article is by a scholar whose expertise corresponds to the topic at hand: Oliver Taplin discusses Greek theater; Martin Esslin, modern theater; Leslie du S. Read, theater in Africa and pre-Columbian America, etc. This strategy avoids the Eurocentrism of many other theater histories, even though most of the book is still concerned with Western theater; for, indeed, some of the complexity and diversity of traditions influencing contemporary drama and performance theory are accurately conveyed. Of course, the chapters are not all equally satisfying: Taplin on the Greeks manages to shed new light on an often discussed topic, whereas Read's too-short section on Africa and the Americas leaves us wanting to know much more about these scarcely discussed non-Western traditions. Jack Helbig --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's fine. A survey of the history of theatre, it's almost encyclopedic. The overview is superficial and often does no more than lists key components. Certainly a breadth over depth kind of book.

This is a perfectly delightful book on the history of theatre! Well written and a joy to read! VEry helpful in my research on the 18th century stage.

Hard to read but good plays was in the book.

Nice

This was a gift for my actor son. Nice comprehensive history of theater.

The book was exactly as stated, it came on time.

This book was purchased to be placed in our collection in Memory of a dear patron. The Friends of The Libray wanted to put something in that was a passion of the patron and the theatre was one of her favorites.the Oxford Illustrated History of Theatre was the perfect selection and the family was well pleased.

This recopilation of 13 essays by 16 different writers is one of the most outstanding pieces ever written regarding this subject. It covers theatrical history from Egypt to present day with insightful remarks and comprehensive easy to follow writing style. Definitely a must have for theater lovers everywhere

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