

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin

****American Playwrights Since 1945 Philip C. Kolin: Exploring the Evolution of Modern Drama****

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin is a phrase that immediately draws attention to the rich and diverse landscape of American theater in the post-World War II era. Philip C. Kolin, a distinguished scholar and critic, has extensively chronicled this vibrant period, shedding light on the transformative works and figures who shaped modern American drama. Understanding the trajectory of American playwrights since 1945 through Kolin's insights offers a fascinating glimpse into how social, political, and cultural shifts influenced theatrical expression in the United States.

The Landscape of American Theater After 1945

The end of World War II marked a significant turning point in American arts, and theater was no exception. The years following 1945 saw a surge of innovation and experimentation, with playwrights addressing complex themes of identity, politics, and social change. Philip C. Kolin's analysis captures this dynamic period, highlighting how playwrights moved beyond traditional narratives to explore new forms and voices.

American theater during this time began embracing realism, absurdism, and political drama, reflecting the anxieties and hopes of a rapidly changing society. The Cold War, Civil Rights Movement, and Vietnam War provided rich material for playwrights to engage audiences and challenge prevailing norms.

Key Movements and Styles in Postwar American Drama

- ****The Rise of Realism and Social Commentary:**** Playwrights like Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams used realistic settings and characters to delve into the human condition and societal issues. Miller's **Death of a Salesman** and Williams' **A Streetcar Named Desire** remain iconic works that reflect this trend.

- ****Absurdist Theater:**** Influenced by European playwrights such as Samuel Beckett and Eugène Ionesco, American dramatists began experimenting with absurdism. This style questioned the meaning of existence and often featured disjointed dialogue and surreal scenarios.

- ****Political and Experimental Theater:**** The 1960s and 1970s witnessed playwrights like Lorraine Hansberry and Amiri Baraka addressing race, class, and identity through politically charged plays. Experimental theater groups also emerged, pushing the boundaries of traditional stagecraft.

Philip C. Kolin's scholarship meticulously traces these developments, offering a comprehensive understanding of how American playwrights responded to and shaped cultural discourses.

Philip C. Kolin's Contributions to the Study of American Playwrights Since 1945

Philip C. Kolin is widely recognized for his deep expertise in American drama. His works provide critical frameworks for analyzing playwrights and their contributions from the postwar period to contemporary times. Kolin's research often bridges literary criticism with historical context, making his analysis invaluable for students, educators, and theater enthusiasts alike.

Notable Works by Kolin on American Drama

- **American Playwrights Since 1945: A Critical History** - This seminal text explores the evolution of American theater, examining major playwrights, their themes, and stylistic innovations.
- **Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh** - A detailed study of Williams' life and works, delving into the psychological and social underpinnings of his plays.
- **Arthur Miller: A Biography** - Offering insights into Miller's personal experiences and how they influenced his writing.

Kolin's approach typically combines close textual analysis with broader cultural interpretation, enriching readers' understanding of the playwrights' intentions and societal impact.

Why Kolin's Work Matters in Contemporary Theater Studies

In a field often marked by shifting trends and interpretations, Kolin's scholarship provides a stable foundation for understanding American drama's complex history. His attention to lesser-known playwrights alongside canonical figures ensures a more inclusive perspective on the theatrical canon.

Moreover, Kolin's work aids in recognizing how American playwrights since 1945 have addressed issues of race, gender, and politics—topics that remain highly relevant today. For those studying modern drama, his critical histories serve as essential guides to the thematic and stylistic currents that continue to influence theater.

Influential American Playwrights Since 1945 Highlighted by Kolin

Philip C. Kolin's research spotlights a diverse array of playwrights who have left indelible marks on American theater. Understanding these figures helps contextualize the ongoing evolution of drama.

Arthur Miller (1915-2005)

Often considered one of the greatest American playwrights, Miller's work epitomizes postwar realism and social critique. His plays grapple with moral dilemmas, the American Dream, and the individual's place in society. Kolin's analysis underscores Miller's ability to capture the zeitgeist of mid-20th-century America while addressing universal themes.

Tennessee Williams (1911-1983)

Williams' lyrical and psychologically intense dramas brought new emotional depth to American theater. Kolin's studies highlight Williams' exploration of desire, identity, and fragility within the framework of Southern Gothic tradition.

Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965)

Best known for *A Raisin in the Sun*, Hansberry broke ground as an African American woman playwright confronting racial segregation and injustice. Kolin praises her contributions to expanding the American theatrical voice and influencing generations of playwrights concerned with civil rights.

Edward Albee (1928-2016)

Known for his sharp, often absurdist style, Albee challenged audiences with plays like *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Kolin's commentary explores how Albee's works dissect personal and societal dysfunctions, blending realism with existential inquiry.

August Wilson (1945-2005)

Wilson's *Pittsburgh Cycle* chronicles African American experiences across decades, combining historical context with poetic storytelling. Kolin emphasizes Wilson's role in shaping contemporary American theater with a strong focus on race, heritage, and identity.

The Impact of American Playwrights Since 1945 on Contemporary Theater

The legacy of post-1945 American playwrights continues to reverberate in theaters across the country and around the world. Their explorations of complex social issues, innovative storytelling techniques, and commitment to authentic voices have paved the way for new generations of dramatists.

How Modern Playwrights Build on Past Traditions

Today's playwrights often draw inspiration from the thematic and stylistic breakthroughs championed by figures discussed by Philip C. Kolin. Issues of gender, race, class, and politics remain central, but contemporary voices frequently incorporate multimedia elements, non-linear narratives, and interactive theater.

Educational and Cultural Significance

Studying American playwrights since 1945 through Kolin's work equips students and theater practitioners with a nuanced appreciation of how drama reflects and influences society. This knowledge fosters critical thinking and encourages engagement with pressing cultural conversations.

Exploring Further: Tips for Engaging with American Drama

If you're intrigued by the world of American playwrights since 1945 and Philip C. Kolin's scholarship, here are some ways to deepen your engagement:

- **Read seminal plays:** Start with foundational works by Miller, Williams, and Hansberry to understand core themes and styles.
- **Explore critical texts:** Delve into Kolin's books and essays for contextual and analytical perspectives.
- **Attend live performances:** Experiencing plays on stage adds a dynamic dimension to your appreciation.
- **Join discussions or theater workshops:** Engaging with communities interested in drama fosters deeper insight.
- **Follow contemporary playwrights:** Discover how modern writers reinterpret and expand on postwar theatrical traditions.

Engaging with American theater through these avenues enriches your understanding of cultural history and the power of storytelling.

The study of American playwrights since 1945 Philip C. Kolin highlights not just the evolution of drama but also the enduring human questions it addresses. From the intimate struggles of individuals to the sweeping tides of social change, American theater remains a vital space for reflection, challenge, and creativity. As new voices emerge, the legacy chronicled by scholars like Kolin ensures that this vibrant tradition continues to inspire and provoke audiences worldwide.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Philip C. Kolin in the context of American playwrights since 1945?

Philip C. Kolin is a noted scholar and critic specializing in American drama, particularly focusing on playwrights and theatrical works since 1945.

What contributions has Philip C. Kolin made to the study of American playwrights since 1945?

Philip C. Kolin has authored and edited numerous books and articles analyzing the works and impact of post-1945 American playwrights, providing critical insights into modern American theater.

Which American playwrights since 1945 has Philip C. Kolin extensively studied?

Philip C. Kolin has extensively studied playwrights such as Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Edward Albee, August Wilson, and Lorraine Hansberry, among others.

How does Philip C. Kolin approach the analysis of American drama since 1945?

Kolin often employs a combination of historical, cultural, and literary analysis to explore themes, social contexts, and the evolution of American theater post-World War II.

Are there any notable books by Philip C. Kolin focusing on American playwrights since 1945?

Yes, some of Philip C. Kolin's notable works include 'American Drama Since 1945,' which surveys significant playwrights and trends in postwar American theater.

Why is studying American playwrights since 1945 important according to Philip C. Kolin?

According to Kolin, studying American playwrights since 1945 is crucial for understanding the cultural, social, and political changes in America reflected through its evolving theatrical landscape.

Additional Resources

American Playwrights Since 1945: Insights from Philip C. Kolin

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin offers a critical lens through which to examine the evolution of American theater in the post-war era. As a distinguished scholar and critic, Philip C.

Kolin provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the diverse voices and thematic innovations that have shaped American drama from the mid-20th century to the present. His analysis not only highlights seminal figures but also contextualizes their work within broader social, political, and cultural shifts, making his contributions invaluable for students, academics, and theater enthusiasts alike.

The Landscape of American Drama After 1945

The period following 1945 marked a dramatic shift in American theater, moving away from traditional forms toward more experimental and socially engaged works. According to Philip C. Kolin's research and critical assessments, playwrights began to challenge prevailing norms and explore complex themes such as identity, race, gender, and political dissent. This era witnessed the rise of influential figures who redefined the boundaries of dramatic expression and narrative structure.

Key Figures and Their Contributions

Kolin's scholarship meticulously charts the careers of pivotal playwrights who emerged or gained prominence after 1945. Among these are Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Lorraine Hansberry, and August Wilson, each contributing distinct perspectives and styles that enriched the American theatrical canon.

- **Arthur Miller:** Known for works like "Death of a Salesman" and "The Crucible," Miller's plays often interrogate the American Dream and social responsibility.
- **Tennessee Williams:** His emotionally charged dramas, such as "A Streetcar Named Desire," delve into human vulnerability and desire.
- **Lorraine Hansberry:** As the first African American female playwright to have a play performed on Broadway with "A Raisin in the Sun," Hansberry brought race and class issues to the forefront.
- **August Wilson:** His ten-play cycle chronicling African American life across decades stands as a monumental achievement in American theater.

Philip C. Kolin's analysis emphasizes how these playwrights not only reflected societal changes but also actively influenced public discourse through their art.

Thematic Innovations Highlighted by Kolin

One of the strengths of Kolin's work on American playwrights since 1945 is his ability to identify thematic currents that run through the period's drama. He notes a marked shift toward exploring

marginalized voices and complex social realities. Themes of alienation, existential angst, and political critique became prevalent, mirroring the uncertainties of the Cold War, civil rights movements, and evolving cultural landscapes.

Kolin also points out the increasing experimentation with form and language, as playwrights incorporated realism, absurdism, and later postmodern techniques to challenge audiences' perceptions. This evolution reflects a broader trend in American literature and art, where boundaries between genres and styles became increasingly fluid.

Philip C. Kolin's Methodological Approach

Kolin approaches the study of American playwrights since 1945 with an interdisciplinary methodology, combining literary criticism, historical context, and performance studies. His work often situates plays within their socio-political environments, providing readers with a nuanced understanding of how external factors shaped artistic choices.

Comparative Analysis

A distinctive feature of Kolin's scholarship is his comparative analysis of American playwrights alongside their international counterparts. This cross-cultural perspective allows for a richer appreciation of how American drama fits within global theatrical trends while maintaining unique national characteristics.

For instance, Kolin contrasts the social realism seen in Arthur Miller's work with the absurdist tendencies of European playwrights like Samuel Beckett, highlighting how American playwrights adapted and transformed global influences to suit their contexts.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Philip C. Kolin's critical evaluations often explore the reception history of plays, examining how audiences and critics have responded over time. This approach sheds light on shifting cultural attitudes and the enduring relevance of certain works. Kolin's scholarship also addresses the legacy of post-1945 playwrights, considering how their innovations continue to inspire contemporary dramatists.

Expanding the Canon: Inclusion and Diversity

One of the significant contributions of American playwrights since 1945, as detailed by Kolin, is the gradual expansion of the theatrical canon to include more diverse voices. The latter half of the 20th century saw an increase in plays written by women, African Americans, Latino/a playwrights, and other underrepresented groups.

Kolin's work highlights how this diversification has enriched American theater by introducing new

narratives and challenging dominant paradigms. Playwrights such as Suzan-Lori Parks, Tony Kushner, and Lynn Nottage are discussed as part of this ongoing movement toward inclusivity and social justice in drama.

Challenges and Critiques

While praising the achievements of post-1945 playwrights, Kolin does not shy away from addressing challenges within the field. He critically examines issues such as the commercialization of theater, the tension between artistic innovation and audience accessibility, and the ongoing struggle to secure institutional support for diverse playwrights.

These critiques are essential for understanding the dynamics that shape American theater today and for identifying areas where further progress is needed.

The Influence of Historical Events on Playwriting

Philip C. Kolin's analysis underlines the profound impact of historical events on the thematic and stylistic development of American drama since 1945. The Cold War, the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, and more recent political and social upheavals have all left their imprint on playwrights' work.

For example, the paranoia and ideological conflicts of the Cold War era are reflected in Miller's "The Crucible," which uses the Salem witch trials as an allegory for McCarthyism. Similarly, the Civil Rights Movement catalyzed a wave of plays addressing racial injustice and identity, as seen in Hansberry's groundbreaking work.

Evolution of Performance and Production

Beyond writing, Kolin also examines how shifts in production techniques and performance styles have influenced the reception and interpretation of American plays. The rise of experimental theater companies, the incorporation of multimedia, and the increasing prominence of regional theaters have all contributed to a more dynamic theatrical landscape.

This evolution has allowed playwrights greater freedom to experiment with form and content, further pushing the boundaries of American drama.

Philip C. Kolin's Contribution to Theater Studies

Philip C. Kolin's scholarship on American playwrights since 1945 stands as a vital resource for understanding the trajectory of modern American theater. His thorough research, critical insight, and balanced assessments provide a foundational text for both academic inquiry and theatrical practice.

His work encourages ongoing dialogue about the role of theater in reflecting and shaping societal values, making it indispensable for anyone seeking to grasp the complexities of American playwriting in the contemporary era.

Through his detailed examinations, Kolin not only honors the achievements of individual playwrights but also frames their work within the broader narrative of American cultural history, enriching our appreciation of the art form and its enduring impact.

American Playwrights Since 1945 Philip C Kolin

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: Modern American Drama: Playwriting in the 1970s Michael Vanden Heuvel, 2019-11-14 The Decades of Modern American Drama series provides a comprehensive survey and study of the theatre produced in each decade from the 1930s to 2009 in eight volumes. Each volume equips readers with a detailed understanding of the context from which work emerged: an introduction considers life in the decade with a focus on domestic life and conditions, social changes, culture, media, technology, industry and political events; while a chapter on the theatre of the decade offers a wide-ranging and thorough survey of theatres, companies, dramatists, new movements and developments in response to the economic and political conditions of the day. The work of the four most prominent playwrights from the decade receives in-depth analysis and re-evaluation by a team of experts, together with commentary on their subsequent work and legacy. A final section brings together original documents such as interviews with the playwrights and with directors, drafts of play scenes, and other previously unpublished material. The major playwrights and their works to receive in-depth coverage in this volume include: * David Rabe: *The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel*; *Sticks and Bones*; and *Streamers*; * Sam Shepard: *Curse of the Starving Class*; *Buried Child*; and *True West*; * Ntozake Shange: *For colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*; *Spell #7*; and *Boogie-Woogie Landscapes* * Richard Foreman: *Sophia = (Wisdom) Part 3*; *The Cliffs*; *Pandering to the Masses: A Misrepresentation*; and *Rhoda in Potatoland (Her Fall-Starts)*.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: *The Undergraduate's Companion to American Writers and Their Web Sites* Larry G. Hinman, 2000-12-15 An outstanding research guide for undergraduate students of American literature, this best-selling book is essential when it comes to researching American authors. Bracken and Hinman identify and describe the best and most current sources, both in print and online, for nearly 300 American writers whose works are included in the most frequently used literary anthologies. Students will know exactly what information is available and where to find it.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: A Reference Guide for English Studies Michael J. Marcuse, 2023-11-15

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: The Cambridge History of American Theatre Don B. Wilmet, Christopher Bigsby, 1998 This is an authoritative and wide-ranging history of American theatre in all its dimensions, from theatre building to playwriting, directors, performers, and designers. Engaging the theatre as a performance art, a cultural institution, and a fact of American social and political life, the history addresses the economic context that conditioned the drama presented. The history approaches its subject with a full awareness of relevant developments in literary criticism, cultural analysis, and performance theory. At the same time, it is designed to be an accessible, challenging narrative. All volumes include an extensive overview and timeline, followed by chapters on specific aspects of theatre. Volume Three examines the development of the theatre after World War II, through the productions of Broadway and beyond and into regional theatre across the country. Contributors also analyze new directions in theatre design, directing,

and acting, as well as key plays and playwrights through the 1990s.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: *The Oxford Handbook of Sondheim Studies* Robert Gordon, 2014-05-01 The Oxford Handbook of Sondheim Studies offers a series of cutting-edge essays on the most important and compelling topics in the growing field of Sondheim Studies. Focusing on broad groups of issues relating to the music and the production of Sondheim works, rather than on biographical questions about the composer himself, the handbook represents a cross-disciplinary introduction to comprehending Sondheim in musicological, theatrical, and socio-cultural terms. This collection of never-before published essays addresses issues of artistic method and musico-dramaturgical form, while at the same time offering close readings of individual shows from a variety of analytical perspectives. The handbook is arranged into six broad sections: issues of intertextuality and authorship; Sondheim's pioneering work in developing the non-linear form of the concept musical; the production history of Sondheim's work; his writing for film and television; his exploitation and deployment of a wide range of musical genres; and how interpretation through key critical lenses (including sociology, history, and feminist and queer theory) establishes his position in a broader cultural context.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: *Sam Shepard V8 Pt 4* Johan Callens, 2005-06-28 This volume, the second of two, contains the proceedings of the Shepard conference organized in Brussels, 28-30 May 1993, by the Belgian-Luxembourg American Studies Association and the Free University of Brussels.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: *Historical Dictionary of Contemporary American Theater* James Fisher, 2021-07-15 Historical Dictionary of Contemporary American Theater. Second Edition covers theatrical practice and practitioners as well as the dramatic literature of the United States of America from 1930 to the present. The 90 years covered by this volume features the triumph of Broadway as the center of American drama from 1930 to the early 1960s through a Golden Age exemplified by the plays of Eugene O'Neill, Elmer Rice, Thornton Wilder, Lillian Hellman, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, William Inge, Lorraine Hansberry, and Edward Albee, among others. The impact of the previous modernist era contributed greatly to this period of prodigious creativity on American stages. This volume will continue through an exploration of the decline of Broadway as the center of U.S. theater in the 1960s and the evolution of regional theaters, as well as fringe and university theaters that spawned a second Golden Age at the millennium that produced another - and significantly more diverse - generation of significant dramatists including such figures as Sam Shepard, David Mamet, Maria Irené Fornes, Beth Henley, Terrence McNally, Tony Kushner, Paula Vogel, Lynn Nottage, Suzan-Lori Parks, Sarah Ruhl, and numerous others. The impact of the Great Depression and World War II profoundly influenced the development of the American stage, as did the conformist 1950s and the revolutionary 1960s on in to the complex times in which we currently live. Historical Dictionary of the Contemporary American Theater, Second Edition contains a chronology, an introduction, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has more than 1.000 cross-referenced entries on plays, playwrights, directors, designers, actors, critics, producers, theaters, and terminology. This book is an excellent resource for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about American theater.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: *August Wilson* Mary Ellen Snodgrass, 2015-03-10 Award-winning African-American playwright August Wilson created a cultural chronicle of black America through such works as Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Fences, Joe Turner's Come and Gone, The Piano Lesson, and Two Trains Running. The authentic ring of wit, anecdote, homily, and plaint proved that a self-educated Pittsburgh ghetto native can grow into a revered conduit for a century of black achievement. He forced readers and audiences to examine the despair generated by poverty and racism by exploring African-American heritage and experiences over the course of the twentieth century. This literary companion provides the reader with a source of basic data and analysis of characters, dates, events, allusions, staging strategies and themes from the work of one of America's finest playwrights. The text opens with an annotated chronology of Wilson's life and works, followed by his family tree. Each of the 166 encyclopedic entries that make up the body of the

work combines insights from a variety of sources along with generous citations; each concludes with a selected bibliography on such relevant subjects as the blues, Malcolm X, irony, roosters, and Gothic mode. Charts elucidate the genealogies of Wilson's characters, the Charles, Hedley, and Maxson families, and account for weaknesses in Wilson's female characters. Two appendices complete the generously cross-referenced work: a timeline of events in Wilson's life and those of his characters, and a list of 40 topics for projects, composition, and oral analysis.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: A Study Guide for Marsha Norman's "Night, Mother ('Night, Mother)" Gale, Cengage Learning, A Study Guide for Marsha Norman's Night, Mother ('Night, Mother), excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Drama For Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Drama For Students for all of your research needs.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: Tennessee Williams Philip Kolin, 1998-10-28 The plays of Tennessee Williams are some of the greatest triumphs of the American theatre. If Williams is not the most important American playwright, he surely is one of the two or three most celebrated, rivaled only by Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller. In a career that spanned almost five decades, he created an extensive canon of more than 70 plays. His contributions to the American theatre are inestimable and revolutionary. The Glass Menagerie (1945) introduced poetic realism to the American stage; A Streetcar Named Desire (1947) explored sexual and psychological issues that had never before been portrayed in American culture; Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1955) dared to challenge the political and sexual mores of the Eisenhower era; and his plays of the 1970s are among the most innovative works produced on the American stage. But Williams was far more than a gifted and prolific playwright. He created two collections of poetry, two novels, four collections of stories, memoirs, and scores of essays. Because of his towering presence in American drama, Williams has attracted the attention of some of the most insightful scholars and critics of the twentieth century. The 1990s in particular ushered in a renaissance of Williams research, including a definitive biography, a descriptive bibliography, and numerous books and scholarly articles. This reference book synthesizes the vast body of research on Tennessee Williams and offers a performance history of his works. Under the guidance of one of the leading authorities on Williams, expert contributors have written chapters on each of Williams' works or clusters of works. Each chapter includes a discussion of the biographical context of a work or group of writings; a survey of the bibliographic history; an analysis of major critical approaches, which looks at themes, characters, symbols, and plots; a consideration of the major critical problems posed by the work; an overview of chief productions and film and television versions; a concluding interpretation; and a bibliography of secondary sources. The volume concludes with a selected, general bibliography and a comprehensive index.

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american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: Outstanding Broadway Dramas and Comedies Heinz-Dietrich Fischer, 2013 Many Pulitzer Prize-winners in the theater award category started their international careers right from Broadway. Among the laureates were dramatists such as Eugene O'Neill who earned four awards. Double prize-winner Tennessee Williams was praised for A Streetcar Named Desire and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Thornton Wilder's plays Our Town and The Skin of Our Teeth were successful, as well as Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman. Edward Albee's Three Tall Women or Alfred Uhry's Driving Miss Daisy represent the younger generation of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwrights. This book takes a look at many of the Pulitzer Prize-winning productions that have been presented over the years on Broadway. (Series: Pulitzer Prize Panorama - Vol. 6)

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: The American Stage Ron Engle, Tice L.

Miller, 1993-05-06 This book focuses on the economic and social forces which shaped American theatre throughout its history. Alone or as a collection, these essays, written by leading theatre historians and critics of the American theatre, will stimulate discussions concerning the traditionally held views of America's theatrical heritage.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: 100 Years of Pulitzer Prize-Decorated New York Theatre Productions Heinz-Dietrich Fischer, 2023-05-22 This volume tells the fascinating history of a century of Broadway Theatre, exemplified by Pulitzer Prize-winning stage productions of plays from leading American playwrights like Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller and many others. In addition, facsimile reproductions of theatre programs and posters give an impression of the casts on stage including movie stars like Deborah Kerr, Jessica Tandy, Anthony Perkins, Marlon Brando, Karl Malden or Morgan Freeman.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: Marsha Norman Linda Ginter-Brown, 2014-04-08 This collection of ten original (and one reprinted) essays provides an in-depth examination of one of America's foremost contemporary playwrights. Established critics as well as younger scholars examine well-known works such as *Getting Out*, *'night*, *Mother*, *The Laundromat*, and the adaptation of *The Secret Garden*. Lesser known plays such as *The Holdup*, *Sarah and Abraham*, *Traveler in the Dark*, and *Loving Daniel Boone* are also discussed. This casebook includes an interview with Norman commenting on her work and her place in American theater as well as a review of *'night*, *Mother* by drama critic Robert Brustein. The essays analyze Norman's works in comparison to the works of other playwrights and examine the mother/daughter relationships of the characters as well as Norman's sense of a woman's place within a patriarchal culture.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: Gale Researcher Guide for: Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams Leila Christenbury, Gale Researcher Guide for: Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams is selected from Gale's academic platform Gale Researcher. These study guides provide peer-reviewed articles that allow students early success in finding scholarly materials and to gain the confidence and vocabulary needed to pursue deeper research.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: Feed Your Mind Jen Bryant, 2019-11-12 A celebration of August Wilson's journey from a child in Pittsburgh to one of America's greatest playwrights August Wilson (1945–2005) was a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright who had a particular talent for capturing the authentic, everyday voice of black Americans. As a child, he read off soup cans and cereal boxes, and when his mother brought him to the library, his whole world opened up. After facing intense prejudice at school from both students and some teachers, August dropped out. However, he continued reading and educating himself independently. He felt that if he could read about it, then he could teach himself anything and accomplish anything. Like many of his plays, *Feed Your Mind* is told in two acts, revealing how Wilson grew up to be one of the most influential American playwrights. The book includes an author's note, a timeline of August Wilson's life, a list of Wilson's plays, and a bibliography.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: A Reader's Guide to Modern American Drama Sanford Sternlicht, 2002-04-01 Sanford Sternlicht presents a comprehensive survey of modern American drama beginning with its antecedents in Victorian melodrama through the present. He discusses the work and achievement of more than seventy playwrights, from Eugene O'Neill to Suzan-Lori Parks—from the golden era of Broadway to the rise of Off-Broadway and regional theater. Sternlicht shows how world theater influenced the American stage, and how the views of American dramatists reflected the great American social movements of their times. In addition, he describes the contributions of early experimental theater, the Federal Theater of the 1930s, African American, feminist, and gay and lesbian drama—and the joyous trends and triumphs of American musical theater.

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: Modern American Drama: Playwriting 2000-2009 Julia Listengarten, Cindy Rosenthal, 2019-11-14 The *Decades of Modern American Drama* series provides a comprehensive survey and study of the theatre produced in each decade from the 1930s to 2009 in eight volumes. Each volume equips readers with a detailed understanding of the

context from which work emerged: an introduction considers life in the decade with a focus on domestic life and conditions, social changes, culture, media, technology, industry and political events; while a chapter on the theatre of the decade offers a wide-ranging and thorough survey of theatres, companies, dramatists, new movements and developments in response to the economic and political conditions of the day. The work of the four most prominent playwrights from the decade receives in-depth analysis and re-evaluation by a team of experts, together with commentary on their subsequent work and legacy. A final section brings together original documents such as interviews with the playwrights and with directors, drafts of play scenes, and other previously unpublished material. The major playwrights and their plays to receive in-depth coverage in this volume include: * Theresa Rebeck: *Omnium Gatherum* (2003), *Mauritius* (2007), and *The Understudy* (2008); * Sarah Ruhl: *Eurydice* (2003), *Clean House* (2004), and *In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)* (2009); * Lynn Nottage: *Intimate Apparel* (2003), *Fabulation or Re-Education of Undine* (2004), and *Ruined* (2008); * Charles Mee: *Big Love* (2000), *Wintertime* (2005), and *Hotel Cassiopeia* (2006).

american playwrights since 1945 philip c kolin: *Edward Albee: A Singular Journey* Mel Gussow, 2012-11-27 In 1960, Edward Albee electrified the theater world with the American premiere of *The Zoo Story*, and followed it two years later with his extraordinary first Broadway play, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Proclaimed as the playwright of his generation, he went on to win three Pulitzer Prizes for his searing and innovative plays. Mel Gussow, author, critic, and cultural writer for *The New York Times*, has known Albee and followed his career since its inception, and in this fascinating biography he creates a compelling firsthand portrait of a complex genius. The book describes Albee's life as the adopted child of rich, unloving parents and covers the highs and lows of his career. A core myth of Albee's life, perpetuated by the playwright, is that *The Zoo Story* was his first play, written as a thirtieth birthday present to himself. As Gussow relates, Albee has been writing since adolescence, and through close analysis the author traces the genesis of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Tiny Alice*, *A Delicate Balance*, and other plays. After his early triumphs, Albee endured years of critical neglect and public disfavor. Overcoming artistic and personal difficulties, he returned in 1994 with *Three Tall Women*. In this prizewinning play he came to terms with the towering figure of his mother, the woman who dominated so much of his early life. With frankness and critical acumen, and drawing on extensive conversations with the playwright, Gussow offers fresh insights into Albee's life. At the same time he provides vivid portraits of Albee's relationships with the people who have been closest to him, including William Flanagan (his first mentor), Thornton Wilder, Richard Barr, John Steinbeck, Alan Schneider, John Gielgud, and his leading ladies, Uta Hagen, Colleen Dewhurst, Irene Worth, Myra Carter, Elaine Stritch, Marian Seldes, and Maggie Smith. And then there are, most famously, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, who starred in Mike Nichols's acclaimed film version of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* The book places Albee in context as a playwright who inspired writers as diverse as John Guare and Sam Shepard, and as a teacher and champion of human rights. *Edward Albee: A Singular Journey* is rich with colorful details about this uniquely American life. It also contains previously unpublished photographs and letters from and to Albee. It is the essential book about one of the major artists of the American theater.

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