



The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies)

By Richard Hudson Palmer

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer

British drama since 1956 has been particularly innovative. This volume investigates how recent British history plays reflect the methods and values of New History, in contrast to traditional biographical dramas that depict the lives of great men of the past. More than 50 British playwrights are discussed, including John Osborne, John Arden, Edward Bond, Robert Bolt, Pam Gems, Howard Brenton, Caryl Churchill, Howard Barker, and Peter Shaffer. Historical drama consistently displays the sense of history prevalent when it was written: a 17th century quest for precedent and analogy; the affirmation of cosmic order in the 18th century; the Romantic search for manifestations of spiritual purpose; in Victorian times, a demonstration that humans control events; and the early 20th century promise, emulating science, to present the facts objectively.

Contemporary British history plays, however, demonstrate different agendas for history itself. Marxist plays illustrate a historical dialect leading to the emergence of Communism. Oppositional history takes the point of view of the disenfranchised, the defeated, or the oppressed. Social histories refocus attention away from movers and shakers onto groups of small players. Feminist historians expose the biases of a male dominated hegemony and confront the role of gender in history. Deconstructionists debunk our confidence in historical metanarratives. Postmodernism uses anachronism and stylistic eclecticism to emphasize parallels in different historical periods or to relate historically defined metaphors and rituals to modern experience. Both playwrights and critics confront the implications of the idea that history is constructed and not simply found, and new approaches to history demand innovations in the staging and structuring of plays.

↓ [Download The Contemporary British History Play \(Contributio ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online The Contemporary British History Play \(Contribut ...pdf](#)

The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies)

By Richard Hudson Palmer

The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer

British drama since 1956 has been particularly innovative. This volume investigates how recent British history plays reflect the methods and values of New History, in contrast to traditional biographical dramas that depict the lives of great men of the past. More than 50 British playwrights are discussed, including John Osborne, John Arden, Edward Bond, Robert Bolt, Pam Gems, Howard Brenton, Caryl Churchill, Howard Barker, and Peter Shaffer. Historical drama consistently displays the sense of history prevalent when it was written: a 17th century quest for precedent and analogy; the affirmation of cosmic order in the 18th century; the Romantic search for manifestations of spiritual purpose; in Victorian times, a demonstration that humans control events; and the early 20th century promise, emulating science, to present the facts objectively.

Contemporary British history plays, however, demonstrate different agendas for history itself. Marxist plays illustrate a historical dialect leading to the emergence of Communism. Oppositional history takes the point of view of the disenfranchised, the defeated, or the oppressed. Social histories refocus attention away from movers and shakers onto groups of small players. Feminist historians expose the biases of a male dominated hegemony and confront the role of gender in history. Deconstructionists debunk our confidence in historical metanarratives. Postmodernism uses anachronism and stylistic eclecticism to emphasize parallels in different historical periods or to relate historically defined metaphors and rituals to modern experience. Both playwrights and critics confront the implications of the idea that history is constructed and not simply found, and new approaches to history demand innovations in the staging and structuring of plays.

The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer
Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #6932594 in Books
- Published on: 1998-06-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .75" w x 5.98" l, 1.45 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 272 pages

 [Download The Contemporary British History Play \(Contributio ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Contemporary British History Play \(Contribut ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer

Editorial Review

Review

"The Contemporary British History Play is an efficient and thoughtful treatment of the many uses post-war playwrights have made of history. Palmer's solution to the problem of defining the genre is quite satisfying; it is good to get beyond that silly debate and on to more substantial matters. Finally, since even seasoned scholars are likely to encounter playwrights new to them here, perhaps some less visible writers will receive critical attention."-Modern Drama

?The Contemporary British History Play is an efficient and thoughtful treatment of the many uses post-war playwrights have made of history. Palmer's solution to the problem of defining the genre is quite satisfying; it is good to get beyond that silly debate and on to more substantial matters. Finally, since even seasoned scholars are likely to encounter playwrights new to them here, perhaps some less visible writers will receive critical attention.?-Modern Drama

About the Author

RICHARD H. PALMER is Professor of Theatre at the College of William and Mary, where he balances an interest in theatre history and literature with practical work as a stage director and designer. His specialty in theatre aesthetics encompasses topics ranging from stage lighting to dramatic theory. His previous books include *The Lightening Art* (1994), *Tragedy and Tragic Theory* (Greenwood, 1992), and *The Critics' Canon* (Greenwood, 1988).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Frye:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or even goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They are reading whatever they have because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Think about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you'll have this The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies).

Edward Baca:

The particular book The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was published by the very famous author. McDougal makes some research just before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you may get the point easily after reading this book.

Patricia Whetsel:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to you is The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) this e-book consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented how can the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some study when he makes this book. This is why this book acceptable all of you.

Mary Curtis:

Is it you actually who having spare time and then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) can be the response, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

**Download and Read Online The Contemporary British History Play
(Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson
Palmer #0OKEFW265GZ**

Read The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer for online ebook

The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer books to read online.

Online The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer ebook PDF download

The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer Doc

The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer Mobipocket

The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer EPub

00KEFW265GZ: The Contemporary British History Play (Contributions in Drama & Theatre Studies) By Richard Hudson Palmer