



METADATA

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Abstract

The book focuses on the history of theatre from the Renaissance to the end of the eighteenth century and contains analyses of representative plays by leading European playwrights of that period (Lope de Vega, Calderón de la Barca, Shakespeare, Corneille, Racine, Molière, Goldoni, Marivaux, Beaumarchais, Goethe, Alfieri). The book emphasizes the socio-historical and ideological milieu in which theatrical genres (tragedy, comedy) developed as well as all aspects of a theatrical performance (set design, scenography, acting). It examines the general characteristics and stylistic peculiarities of key plays that marked the passage from the

Renaissance to the Spanish Baroque and to French classicism, as well as Enlightenment drama, the bourgeois drama of the eighteenth century and the Sturm und Drang. Each chapter is accompanied by: a) extracts from plays which are analysed in terms of the plot, the main idea and the characterization of the dramatis personae and b) extracts from theoretical texts (e.g. prologues, studies, essays) followed by a short commentary and by exercises aiming to help the reader delve deeper into the topics discussed. Each chapter concludes with a series of multiple-choice questions aiming to facilitate the assimilation of the points raised.

