A History of German Theatre

Covering German-language theatre from the Middle Ages to the present day, this study demonstrates how and why theatre became so important in German-speaking countries. Written by leading international scholars of German theatre, chapters cover all aspects of theatrical performance, including acting, directing, playwriting, scenic design and theatre architecture. The book argues that theatre is more central to the artistic life of German-speaking countries than almost anywhere else in the world. Relating German-language theatre to its social and intellectual context, the History demonstrates how theatre has often been used as a political tool. It challenges the idea that German-speaking countries were a theatrical wasteland in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, provides a thematic survey of the crucial period of growth in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and discusses modern and contemporary German theatre by focusing in turn on directors, playwrights, designers and theatre architecture.

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A HISTORY OF

German theatre

Edited by Simon Williams and Maik Hamburger
To the memory of Adolf Dresen (1935–2001)
## Contents

*List of illustrations* page ix  
*List of contributors* xii  

### Introduction

Maik Hamburger and Simon Williams 1  

1 German medieval theatre: Tenth century to 1600  
   Eckehard Simon 8  

2 German baroque theatre and the strolling players, 1550–1750  
   George Brandt 38  

3 Classical theatre and the formation of a civil society, 1720–1832  
   Anthony Meech 65  

4 The realistic theatre and bourgeois values, 1750–1900  
   Marvin Carlson 92  

5 The romantic spirit in the German theatre, 1790–1910  
   Simon Williams 120  

6 The theatre of dissent from *Sturm und Drang* to Brecht,  
   1770–1920  
   Hilda Meldrum Brown 146  

7 The rise of the director, 1850–1939  
   Christopher Innes 171  

8 Naturalism, expressionism and Brecht: Drama in dialogue with  
   modernity, 1890–1960  
   David Barnett 198  

9 Nationalism and its effects on the German theatre, 1790–2000  
   Stephen Wilmer 222
10 Experiments with architectural space in the German theatre
WILLIAM F. CONDEE AND THOMAS IRMER 248

11 Revolutions in scenography on the German stage in the twentieth century
WILHELM HORTMANN 275

DAVID BARNETT 305

13 Directors and actors in modern and contemporary German theatre, 1945–2006
MICHAEL RAAB 332

14 Patterns of continuity in German theatre: Interculturalism, performance and cultural mission
ERIKA FISCHER-LICHTE 360

15 Theatertreffen 2007
MAIK HAMBURGER AND SIMON WILLIAMS 378

Notes 396
Select bibliography 413
Index 419
Illustrations

1 Renward Cysat’s stage plan for day one of the 1583 production of the Lucerne Passion Play (Zentral- und Hochschulbibliothek Lucerne, Sondersammlung). page 19

2 The Carnival Play of Ourson and Valentine. Woodcut after Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c.1530–9) (Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique). 23

3 Il pomo d’oro: Charon on the River Acheron. Opera by Francesco Sbarra and Antonio Cesti, performed at the Habsburg Court in Vienna in 1668. Copperplate by M. Küsel after the design of Ludovico Burnacini (1636–1707) (Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien). 44

4 Teutsche Schawbühne, Strasburg 1655. Frontispiece of a book of plays (Deutsche Staatsbibliothek Berlin). 60

5 Die Braut von Messina by Friedrich Schiller, adapted and directed by Goethe, Weimar 1803. Aquatint by Johann Christian Ernst Müller after a painting by Johann Friedrich Matthaei (Klassik Stiftung Weimar). 82

6 Die Jungfrau von Orleans by Friedrich Schiller, Berlin, Königliches Schauspielhaus 1818. Designed by Friedrich Schinkel. The set shows a hall with a view of the City of Rheims (Stiftung Stadtmuseum Berlin). 100

7 Das Haus der Temperamente by Johann Nestroy, Vienna, Theater in der Leopoldstadt, 1837. Four different apartments are shown at the same time (Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien). 103

8 A view of the auditorium of the Bayreuth Festspielhaus in the nineteenth century (Festspielhaus Bayreuth). 114


10 A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Potsdam 1843, directed by Ludwig Tieck. View of the stage (Theaterwissenschaftliche Sammlung, Universität zu Köln). 139

12 *Jedermann* by Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Salzburg, 1920 or later, directed by Max Reinhardt. Death holds Everyman (Alexander Moissi) in his grip (Deutsches Theatermuseum München). 186

13 *Rasputin, the Romanoffs, the War and the People who Arose against Them* after Alexei Tolstoy, Berlin 1927, Piscator-Stage in the Theatre on Nollendorf Square, devised and directed by Erwin Piscator, designed by Traugott Müller. Scene at the Smolny (Akademie der Künste Berlin, courtesy of Serge Stone). 194

14 *Berlin in sieben Jahrhunderten deutscher Geschichte*, a historical pageant staged by Hanns Niedecken-Gebhard in 1937. The last scene displaying the Prussian Eagle and the Nazi swastika (Theaterwissenschaftliche Sammlung, Universität zu Köln). 239


16 Eurythmic exercises in the open space theatre at Hellerau near Dresden during a festival in 1912 (Theaterwissenschaftliche Sammlung, Universität zu Köln). 254

17 Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz, Berlin 1981. The auditorium of the converted cinema can seat 2000 but can also be divided up into smaller spaces (Photo © Iko Freese). 271


20 *Der fliegende Holländer* by Richard Wagner at the Kroll-Oper, Berlin 1929, directed by Jürgen Fehling, conducted by Otto Klemperer. A stage model by Teo Otto after a design by Ewald Dülberg (Akademie der Künste Berlin). 287
21 *Hamletmaschine* by Shakespeare and Heiner Müller, Deutsches Theater Berlin, 1990, directed by Heiner Müller. Erich Wonder’s set for Act 1 shows an ice cube containing Hamlet (Ulrich Mühe), Gertrude (Dagmar Manzel) and Claudius (Jörg Gudzuhn) with parts of a gigantic crane in the foreground (Photo Wolfhard Theile). 301

22 *Murx den Europäer!* . . . Volksbühne Berlin 1993, devised and directed by Christoph Marthaler. A box set characteristic for the designer Anna Viebrock suggests time standing still (Photo © david baltzer/ bildbuehne.de). 303

23 *The Dragon* by Yevgeny Schwartz, Deutsches Theater Berlin 1965, directed by Benno Besson, designed by Horst Sagert. A scene with the maiden Elsa (Katharina Lind), the hero Lancelot (Eberhard Esche) and the Dragon in the shape of an old man (Rolf Ludwig) (Archive Deutsches Theater). 336

24 *Torquato Tasso* by Goethe, Bremen 1969, directed by Peter Stein, designed by Wilfried Minks. Tasso (Bruno Ganz) in rapturous conversation with Leonore von Este (Jutta Lampe) (Photo © Volker Canaris). 341

25 *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov, Munich Kammerspiele 2006, directed and designed by Andreas Kriegenburg (© Photo Arno Declair). 381

26 *The Oresteia* by Aeschylus, Deutsches Theater Berlin 2006, directed by Michael Thalheimer. Clytemnestra (Constanze Becker) sits with a can of beer by her bloodstained imprint on the wall (© Photo Iko Freese). 384
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