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978-0-521-86262-2 - Racism on the Victorian Stage: Representation of Slavery  
and the Black Character

Hazel Waters

Frontmatter

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## RACISM ON THE VICTORIAN STAGE

While there are many studies of nineteenth-century race theories and scientific racism, the attitudes and stereotypes expressed in popular culture have rarely been examined, and then only for the latter half of the century. Theatre then was mass entertainment and these forgotten plays, hastily written, surviving only as handwritten manuscripts or cheap pamphlets, are a rich seam for the cultural historian. Mining them to discover how 'race' was viewed and how the stereotype of the black developed and degraded sheds a fascinating light on the development of racism in English culture. In the process, this book helps to explain how a certain flexibility in attitudes towards skin colour, observable at the end of the eighteenth century, changed into the hardened jingoism of the late nineteenth. Concentrating on the period 1830 to 1860, its detailed excavation of some seventy plays makes it invaluable to the theatre historian and black studies scholar.

HAZEL WATERS is co-editor of the journal *Race & Class*, and has had many articles published in the area of racism and theatre. This is her first book.

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HAZEL WATERS



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