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978-0-521-03243-8 - Women in British Romantic Theatre: Drama, Performance, and Society, 1790-1840

Edited by Catherine Burroughs

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WOMEN IN BRITISH ROMANTIC THEATRE

DRAMA, PERFORMANCE, AND SOCIETY, 1790–1840

This is the first collection of essays to examine the extraordinary contribution of women playwrights, actors, translators, critics and managers who worked in British theatre during the Romantic period. Focusing on women well known during their day but neglected for some one-hundred-and-fifty years, the volume provides a crucial new perspective that revises historical narratives and reflects the rapidly changing terrain of scholarship in the complex field of Romantic theatre and drama. Eleven specially commissioned essays by a distinguished team of scholars explore the role of numerous theatrical women including the eminent actress Sarah Siddons and two of the period's most prolific playwrights, Elizabeth Inchbald and Joanna Baillie. The book strikes a balance between literary and theatrical approaches, showing how the period's preoccupation with categories such as text and performance, closet drama and stage provides a key to "uncloseting" an important group of female theatre artists.

CATHERINE BURROUGHS is Associate Professor of English at Wells College. She is author of *Closet Stages: Joanna Baillie and the Theater Theory of British Romantic Women Writers* (1997) and co-editor of *Reading the Social Body* (1993).

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For Rick and Nicholas

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Contributors

SUSAN BENNETT is Professor of English at the University of Calgary. She is the author of *Theatre Audiences* (Routledge, 1990; 1997) and of *Performing Nostalgia* (Routledge, 1996), as well as editor, with David Roman, of *Theatre Journal*.

JACKY BRATTON is Professor of Theatre and Cultural History, Royal Holloway, University of London, and currently head of the Department of Drama and Theatre. Her publications include *Acts of Supremacy* (Manchester; St. Martin's, 1991); *Music Hall: Performance and Style* (Open University Press, 1996); a theatre history edition of *King Lear* (Bristol Classical Press, 1982); and monographs on several aspects of nineteenth-century culture beyond theatre.

GILLI BUSH-BAILEY is a doctoral student in the Drama Department at Royal Holloway, University of London, where she received a British Academy award for her research on female theatrical practice in the Restoration period. She has been a professional actress in television, radio, and theatre; a script reader for the Watermill at Newbury, Royal Theatre Northampton, and the Redgrave at Farnham; and a script co-ordinator for the Writers' Group at The Riverside Studios in London.

CATHERINE BURROUGHS is Associate Professor of English and co-chair of the Women's Studies Program at Wells College, and a lecturer at Cornell University. Her publications include numerous essays on Romantic theatre and drama, a co-edited volume, *Reading the Social Body* (Iowa, 1993), and a book, *Closet Stages: Joanna Baillie and the Theater Theory of British Romantic Women Writers* (Pennsylvania, 1997).

JULIE CARLSON is Associate Professor of English at University of California, Santa Barbara. She is author of *In the Theatre of*

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Romanticism: Coleridge, Nationalism, Women (Cambridge, 1994) and guest editor of *Domestic/Tragedy* (SAQ, 98.3, 1999). She has written essays on romantic theatre, sexuality, and psychoanalysis with particular focus on Coleridge and Baillie. Currently she is working on the Godwin-Wollstonecraft-Shelley family and collaborating on a project about romantic medievalism.

MARVIN CARLSON is the Sidney E. Cohn Distinguished Professor of Theatre and Comparative Literature at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, founding editor of *Western European Stages*, and author of numerous books and articles on theatre history and theory, the most recent of which is *Voltaire and the Theatre of the Eighteenth Century* (Greenwood, 1998).

JEFFREY N. COX is Director of the Center for Humanities and the Arts at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is the author of *In the Shadows of Romance: Romantic Tragic Drama in Germany, England, and France* (Ohio University Press, 1987) and of *Poetry and Politics in the Cockney School: Shelley, Keats, Hunt and their Circle* (Cambridge, 1998), as well as the editor of *Seven Gothic Dramas, 1789–1825* (Ohio University Press, 1992) and the co-editor with Larry J. Reynolds of *New Historical Literary Study: Essays on Reproducing Texts, Representing History* (Princeton, 1993).

THOMAS C. CROCHUNIS is an independent scholar, currently working as a communications specialist for the US Department of Education research laboratory at Brown University. Since finishing his dissertation at Rutgers University, “Staged Reading: Theatrical Character in the Dramatic Poetry of Robert Browning,” he has co-edited a volume of essays on Joanna Baillie’s plays and dramaturgy (Gordon and Breach, forthcoming). In 1998, he was guest editor of a special issue of *Romanticism on the Net* on British Women Playwrights around 1800.

GREG KUCICH is Associate Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame. His publications include *Keats, Shelley, and Romantic Spenserianism* (Pennsylvania State, 1991), recent articles on romantic women writers, and a book in progress on “Romanticism and the Gendering of History.” He is also co-editor of *Nineteenth-Century Contexts: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

JANE MOODY read English at Oxford University and completed a doctorate on the politics of early nineteenth-century London

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theatre. After holding a Research Fellowship at Cambridge University, she is now a Lecturer at the University of York. She has published articles and essays on the relationship between Romanticism and theatre history; illegal performances of Shakespeare in early nineteenth-century London; gender, performance and theatrical authorship; and theatre and the new historicism. Her monograph, *Illegitimate Theatre in London, 1787–1843*, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.

JEANNE MOSKAL is Professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the editor of Mary Shelley's *Travel Writings*, volume eight in *The Novels and Selected Works of Mary Shelley* (Pickering and Chatto, 1996), and the author of *Blake, Ethics, and Forgiveness* (Alabama, 1994). She is currently working on a book on British women travel writers and the politics of the 1790s.

KATHERINE NEWBY is a Senior Lecturer in Theatre Studies at Lancaster University. She has published essays on nineteenth-century theatre and women's writing in *Victorian Literature and Culture*, *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, *Bronte Society Transactions*, *Victorian Periodicals Review*, and *Literature and Aesthetics*. Her current research on nineteenth-century women playwrights has been funded by the Australian Research Council, the Society for Theatre Research, the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center.

MARJEAN PURINTON is Associate Professor of English at Texas Tech University. A member of the TTU Teach Academy, she also teaches in the Women's Studies Program. She is the author of *Romantic Ideology Unmasked: The Mentally Constructed Tyrannies in Dramas of William Wordsworth, Lord Byron, Percy Shelley, and Joanna Baillie* (Delaware, 1994). She has published articles on romantic drama, romantic women writers, and romantic theory, and she is currently working on a book entitled "British Romantic Drama and Cultural Identity."

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