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978-0-521-06668-6 - Drama, Theatre, and Identity in the American New Republic

Jeffrey H. Richards

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Drama, Theatre, and Identity in the American New Republic

Drama, Theatre, and Identity in the American New Republic investigates the way in which theatre both reflects and shapes the question of identity in post-Revolutionary American culture. Richards examines a variety of phenomena connected to the stage, including closet Revolutionary political plays, British drama on American boards, American-authored stage plays, and poetry and fiction by early republican writers. American theatre is viewed by Richards as a transatlantic hybrid in which British theatrical traditions in writing and acting provide material and templates by which Americans see and express themselves and their relationship to others. Through intensive analyses of plays both inside and outside of the early American “canon,” this book confronts matters of political, ethnic, and cultural identity by moving from play text to theatrical context and from historical event to audience demographic.

JEFFREY H. RICHARDS is the author of *Theater Enough: American Culture and the Metaphor of the World Stage, 1607–1789* (1991), and *Mercy Otis Warren* (1995), and has edited three other books. He has published articles in *Early American Literature*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, and other journals and collections. He has taught at the University of North Carolina, Duke University, and is currently Professor of English at Old Dominion University.

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*For Elizabeth Quantz Richards,
who endured*

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
Introduction	I
1 American identities and the transatlantic stage	17
PART I Staging revolution at the margins of celebration	35
2 Revolution and unnatural identity in Crèvecoeur's "Landscapes"	37
3 British author, American text: <i>The Poor Soldier</i> in the new republic	60
4 American author, British source: writing revolution in Murray's <i>Traveller Returned</i>	85
5 Patriotic interrogations: committees of safety in early American drama	105
6 Dunlap's queer <i>André</i> : versions of revolution and manhood	124
PART II Coloring identities: race, religion, and the exotic	141
7 Susanna Rowson and the dramatized Muslim	143
8 James Nelson Barker and the stage American Native	166
9 American stage Irish in the early republic	188
10 Black theatre, white theatre, and the stage African	211
PART III Theatre, culture, and reflected identity	239
II Tales of the Philadelphia Theatre: <i>Ormond</i> , national performance, and supranational identity	241

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

CONTENTS

12	A British or an American tar? Play, player, and spectator in Norfolk, 1797–1800	259
13	After <i>The Contrast</i> : Tyler, civic virtue, and the Boston stage	296
	<i>Notes</i>	316
	<i>Bibliography</i>	362
	<i>Index</i>	384

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[More information](#)

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