

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10394-7 - British Theatre in the 1890s: Essays on Drama and the Stage

Edited by Richard Foulkes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The final decade of the nineteenth century was one of the most exciting and productive in the history of the British theatre. In this fascinating collection, twelve leading scholars examine the playwrights, actors, designers, and theatrical environment of the period. As well as shedding new light on such familiar figures as Pinero, H. A. Jones, Beerbohm Tree and Mrs Patrick Campbell, much of the hitherto neglected activity of the period is explored including toga plays, painting and the theatre, theatre architecture, and travelling theatres. The volatile issue of indecency and the music hall also is explored and the question of the immorality of the stage is analysed as a recurring theme of the decade.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10394-7 - British Theatre in the 1890s: Essays on Drama and the Stage

Edited by Richard Foulkes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

BRITISH THEATRE IN THE 1890s

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10394-7 - British Theatre in the 1890s: Essays on Drama and the Stage

Edited by Richard Foulkes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

BRITISH THEATRE IN THE 1890s

essays on drama and the stage

EDITED BY
RICHARD FOULKES



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10394-7 - British Theatre in the 1890s: Essays on Drama and the Stage

Edited by Richard Foulkes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521103947

© Cambridge University Press 1992

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1992

This digitally printed version 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

British theatre in the 1890s : essays on drama and the stage / edited
by Richard Foulkes.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 41478 4 (hard)

1. Theater – Great Britain – History – 19th century. 2. English
drama – 19th century – History and criticism. I. Foulkes, Richard.

PN2594.B75 1992

792'.0941'09034 – dc20 91 – 40771 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-41478-4 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-10394-7 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10394-7 - British Theatre in the 1890s: Essays on Drama and the Stage

Edited by Richard Foulkes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i>	ix
<i>Contributors</i>		xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>		xiii
Introduction RICHARD FOULKES		I
1 J. L. Toole's theatre of farce: ancient and modern MICHAEL READ		10
2 Criteria for comedy: Charles Wyndham at the Criterion Theatre GEORGE ROWELL		24
3 Pineroticism and the problem play: Mrs Tanqueray, Mrs Ebbsmith and 'Mrs Pat' JOEL H. KAPLAN		38
4 <i>The Only Way</i> and the other way: a Dickens adaptation for the 1890s JIM DAVIS		59
5 Toga plays DAVID MAYER		71
6 Svengali: mesmerist and aesthete GEORGE TAYLOR		93
7 Indecency and vigilance in the music halls TRACY C. DAVIS		111
8 Painting and theatre in the 1890s SHEARER WEST		132
9 The architectural response HUGH MAGUIRE		149

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10394-7 - British Theatre in the 1890s: Essays on Drama and the Stage

Edited by Richard Foulkes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

Contents

10	Louis Calvert: a Shakespearian in the nineties RICHARD FOULKES	165
11	Benson's Shakespeare RALPH BERRY	184
12	Travelling theatres in the 1890s JOSEPHINE HARROP	192
	<i>References</i>	201
	<i>Index</i>	208

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10394-7 - British Theatre in the 1890s: Essays on Drama and the Stage

Edited by Richard Foulkes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Illustrations*

1	J. L. Toole as Jasper Phipps in J. M. Barrie's <i>Walker, London</i> (photograph in the possession of Jennie Walton, by whose permission it is reproduced)	page 16
2	Charles Wyndham as Sir Richard Kato in <i>The Case of Rebellious Susan</i> Act 3 (The Theatre Museum, London, the Board of Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum)	32
3	Aubrey Beardsley, 'Mrs Patrick Campbell' (<i>The Yellow Book</i> , April 1894)	44
4	<i>Fedora</i>	45
5	Edward Reed, 'Played Out, or, The 252nd Mrs. Tanqueray' (<i>Punch</i> , 5 May 1894)	46
6	Philip Burne-Jones, <i>The Vampire</i> (<i>The Art of 1897. Supplement to The Studio</i> , London 1897)	48
7	E. J. Wheeler, 'Friday, you know, is the meeting of the Agamists' League' (<i>Mr Punch's Dramatic Sequels</i> , 1901)	51
8	Alfred Ellis, 'Mrs Patrick Campbell as Mrs Ebbsmith', Acts 1 and 2	53
9	Alfred Bryan, 'How's this for ALL RIGHT!' (<i>The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News</i> , 30 March 1895)	54
10	Alfred Ellis, 'Mrs Patrick Campbell as Mrs Ebbsmith', Acts 2 and 3	56
11	John Hassell's poster of Sydney Carton's final moment (The Theatre Museum, London, the Board of Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum)	63
12	Wilson Barrett and Maud Jeffries in <i>The Sign of the Cross</i> (Editor's collection)	83
13	'Au clair de la lune', from George Du Maurier's <i>Trilby</i>	99
14	"'Et maintenant dors, ma mignonne'", from George Du Maurier's <i>Trilby</i>	103

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10394-7 - British Theatre in the 1890s: Essays on Drama and the Stage

Edited by Richard Foulkes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

Illustrations

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 15 | ‘Who is to draw the line: the Magistrate or the Ballet-master?’ (<i>The Day’s Doings</i> , British Library, Colindale) | 114 |
| 16 | ‘Our Empire in Danger. St George and the Dragons’ (<i>The Entr’acte</i> , 20 October 1894, British Library, Colindale) | 122 |
| 17 | ‘Wistful and Sweet’ Dorothea Baird as Trilby (George Du Maurier’s <i>Trilby</i>) | 137 |
| 18 | John Singer Sargent, <i>Ellen Terry as Lady Macbeth</i> , 1889 (The Tate Gallery, London) | 143 |
| 19 | The Royal English Opera House (Palace Theatre), London. Main elevation; plans of ground and dress-circle levels (The Board of Trinity College, Dublin) | 157 |
| 20 | Her Majesty’s Theatre, London (The Board of Trinity College, Dublin) | 160 |
| 21 | Louis Calvert as Casca in <i>Julius Caesar</i> (Her Majesty’s Theatre programme, University of Bristol Theatre Collection) | 178 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10394-7 - British Theatre in the 1890s: Essays on Drama and the Stage

Edited by Richard Foulkes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contributors

PROFESSOR RALPH BERRY is Professor of English at the University of Ottawa. He is the author of *On Directing Shakespeare* (1971) and *Shakespeare and the Awareness of Audience* (1985). He contributed 'The Imperial Theme' to *Shakespeare and the Victorian Stage* (1986).

DR JIM DAVIS is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Theatre Studies at the University of New South Wales. His publications include *John Liston Comedian* (1985) and an edition of the plays of H. J. Byron (1984).

DR TRACY C. DAVIS, Department of Theatre, Northwestern University, is the author of *Actresses as Working Women: Their Social Identity in Victorian Culture* (1991). She has contributed articles on sexual politics, the acting profession and feminist theatre to a variety of journals.

RICHARD FOULKES, Department of Adult Education, University of Leicester, is the author of *The Shakespeare Tercentenary of 1864* (1984) and *The Calverts: Actors of Some Importance* (1992) and the editor of *Shakespeare and the Victorian Stage* (1986).

DR JOSEPHINE HARROP completed her MA at the University of Cork and her doctorate at the University of Lancaster – both on the Victorian theatre. She is the author of *Victorian Portable Theatres* (1989).

PROFESSOR JOEL H. KAPLAN is Associate Professor of English and Theatre at the University of British Columbia. He is preparing a new edition of Oscar Wilde's Society plays for Oxford University Press and is co-author of *Drama, Fashion, Society 1890–1914* (forthcoming).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10394-7 - British Theatre in the 1890s: Essays on Drama and the Stage

Edited by Richard Foulkes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

Contributors

DR HUGH MAGUIRE wrote his doctorate on 'C. J. Phipps and Nineteenth Century Theatre Architecture'. He lectures at the Crawford School of Art, Cork. He is Hon. Treasurer of the Irish Theatre Archive and is currently preparing a bibliography of Irish Theatre.

DR DAVID MAYER is Reader in the Department of Drama, University of Manchester. He is the author of a book on pantomime and edited *Henry Irving and 'The Bells'* (1980). He is a contributor to varied journals including *Theatrephile*.

DR MICHAEL READ teaches in Cardiff at the Welsh College of Music and Drama. He is writing a biography of J. L. Toole. He is a life member of the Society for Theatre Research.

GEORGE ROWELL was Reader in Theatre History at the Department of Drama, University of Bristol. His numerous publications on the Victorian theatre include *The Victorian Theatre* (1956), *Theatre in the Age of Irving* (1981) and *William Terriss and Richard Prince* (1987).

DR GEORGE TAYLOR lectures in the Department of Drama, University of Manchester. His book *Players and Performances in the Victorian Theatre* was published in 1989.

DR SHEARER WEST, Department of History of Art, University of Leicester, is the author of *The Image of the Actor: Verbal and Visual Representation in the Age of Garrick and Kemble* (1991) and *Fin-de-Siècle Art* (forthcoming).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10394-7 - British Theatre in the 1890s: Essays on Drama and the Stage

Edited by Richard Foulkes

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

This volume grew out of the conference on Drama and Theatre in the 1890s held at the University of Leicester in July 1990. I am grateful to the contributors for their patience and diligence in preparing their papers for publication.

R. G. F.