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)
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