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ROMANTIC DRAMA

Drama in the Romantic period underwent radical changes affecting theatre performance, acting, and audience. Theatres were rebuilt and expanded to accommodate larger audiences, and consequently acting styles and the plays themselves evolved to meet the expectations of the new audiences. This book examines manifestations of change in acting, stage design, setting, and the new forms of drama. Actors exercised a persistent habit of stepping out of their roles, whether scripted or not. Burwick traces the radical shifts in acting style from Garrick to Kemble and Siddons, and to Kean and Macready, adding a new dimension to understanding the shift in cultural sensibility from early to later Romantic literature. Eyewitness accounts by theatre-goers and critics attending plays at the major playhouses of London, the provinces, and on the Continent are provided, allowing readers to identify with the experience of being in the theatre during this tumultuous period.

FREDERICK BURWICK is Emeritus Professor of English Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is the author of over twenty-five books, and his research is dedicated to problems of perception, illusion, and delusion in literary representation and theatrical performance. In 1997 he was awarded the Barricelli Award for Outstanding Book of the Year, for *Poetic Madness and the Romantic Imagination*. He has been named Distinguished Scholar by both the British Academy (1992) and the Keats–Shelley Association (1998).

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Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> vi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	vii
Introduction	I
1 Periscopes into the theatre	14
2 Nationalism and national character	33
3 Genre: the realism of fantasy, the fantasy of realism	56
4 Acting: histrionics, and dissimulation	80
5 Transvestites, lovers, monsters: character and sexuality	115
6 Setting: where and elsewhere	151
7 Gothic and anti-Gothic: comedy and horror	170
8 Blue-Beard's castle: mischief and misogyny	202
9 Vampires in kilts	230
<i>Notes</i>	258
<i>Bibliography</i>	296
<i>Index</i>	328

Illustrations

1	Apprehension, <i>Hamlet</i> .	<i>page</i> 84
2	Painful Recollection, <i>King Lear</i> .	86
3	John James Halls, Edmund Kean as Richard III.	87
4	James Northcote, John Philip Kemble as Richard III.	88
5	Benjamin West, <i>King Lear</i> .	90
6	Benjamin West, <i>Hamlet</i> .	91
7	Camilla in <i>Les Horaces</i> .	93
8	Odoardo in <i>Emilia Galotti</i> .	94
9	Odoardo in <i>Emilia Galotti</i> .	95
10	Henry Tresham, <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> .	96
11	William Hamilton, <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> .	98
12	The smith hears of Prince Arthur's death. <i>King John</i> .	99

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii

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