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978-0-521-46488-8 - Twentieth-Century British Theatre: Industry, Art and Empire

Claire Cochrane

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## TWENTIETH-CENTURY BRITISH THEATRE

Claire Cochrane maps the experience of theatre across the British Isles during the twentieth century through the social and economic factors which shaped it. Three topographies for 1900, 1950 and 2000 survey the complex plurality of theatre within the nation state which, at the beginning of the century, was at the hub of world-wide imperial interests, and after 100 years had seen unprecedented demographic, economic and industrial change. Cochrane analyses the dominance of London theatre, but redresses the balance in favour of the hitherto marginalised majority experience in the English regions and the other component nations of the British political construct. Developments arising from demographic change are outlined, especially those relating to the rapid expansion of migrant communities representing multiple ethnicities. Presenting fresh historiographic perspectives on twentieth-century British theatre, the book breaks down the traditionally accepted binary oppositions between different sectors, showing a broader spectrum of theatre practice.

CLAIRE COCHRANE is Senior Lecturer in Drama and Performance at the University of Worcester, where she both teaches and directs medieval and English Renaissance drama in performance and new writing for the theatre. She is the author of *Shakespeare and the Birmingham Repertory Theatre 1913–1929* (1993) and *Birmingham Rep: A City's Theatre 1962–2002* (2003). Her other publications include essays on regional developments in contemporary Black British and British Asian theatre, and articles in journals such as *Theatre Research International* and *New Theatre Quarterly* on the historiography of amateur theatre.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Tokyo, Mexico City  
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](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521464888](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521464888)

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First published 2011

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

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

ISBN 978-0-521-46488-8 Hardback

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*For Henry, Jacob, Zephram, Lucas and Karuna  
altogether with my love*

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## *Acknowledgements*

It has taken a very long time to write this book and as a result some of the individuals who were involved in the preliminary stages of the project may well have forgotten about their contribution. However, I have to thank Russell Jackson, Brian Gibbons and Anne Watts of A&C Black, who passed a proposal for an anthology of documents to Sarah Stanton of Cambridge University Press, who then commissioned a history of twentieth-century British theatre. She subsequently passed me on to Victoria Cooper. That the book is now radically different to what was originally envisaged is largely due to my long-term participation in discussions held within the IFTR Historiography Working Group, and more recently in a similar group established under the auspices of TaPRA. As a result I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to my fellow historians for their good council over many meetings in cities all round the world. These include but are not confined to: Yael Zahry-Levo, Rosemarie Bank, Ken Cerniglia, Barbara Sušec Michieli, Pirkko Koski, Hanna Korsberg, Pentti Paavolainen, Henk Gras, Jan Lazardzig, Steve Wilmer, David Wiles, Joanna Robinson, Lucie Sutherland, Elizabeth Schafer, Gilli Bush-Bailey, Jim Davis, Tracy Davis, Kate Dorney, Ros Merkin and Fiona Mathers. Both Jacky Bratton and Tom Postlewait gave me valuable advice at crucial stages in the process of rethinking the project. David Ian Rabey helped me secure funding for project leave. Ian Brown, Richard Foulkes, John Bull and David Grant have all read and commented on chapters. Above all, Kate Newey has been a constant source of encouragement and practical advice throughout. I have had the opportunity to talk to a number of professional theatre-makers and I thank Liz Tomlin, Sian Redhead, Timothy West, David Buxton, Monica Stewart, David Forder and the late Joan Berly for their time and recollections. No theatre historian can function without archival resources and I am grateful to the staff of a range of theatre collections including those in Birmingham Central Library Department of Arts, Languages and Literature; the Special Collections and Archives,

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*Acknowledgements*

Birmingham University; the Theatre Museum at Covent Garden, now the V&A Theatre Collections; the British Library; the Bodleian Library; the Shakespeare Centre; the Scottish Theatre Archive; the Manuscripts and Archives Collections, Aberdeen University; the National Library of Wales; the Flintshire Record Office; the South Wales Miners' Library; Tyne and Wear Archives Service; South Shields Local Studies Library; and the Linen Hall Library Theatre & Performing Arts Archive with particular thanks to Ophelia Byrne. Marisa O'Hara translated Welsh documents. I thank my colleagues at Worcester University where I have been permitted generous amounts of time to work on the book and where librarians Catherine Armitstead and Sue Fagg helped me with a steady stream of interlibrary loan requests. Natalie Wilcox has rendered vital assistance in assembling the typescript, and I am also grateful for the practical expertise of Allan Maund. The Society for Theatre Research awarded me the 2005 Anthony Denning Award which helped fund travel costs for interviews. The Arts and Humanities Research Council funded my work with a Research Leave Award.

Vicki Cooper has been infinitely patient and flexible over the time it has taken to produce this book and I owe her my heartfelt thanks. Rebecca Taylor has offered much excellent editorial support and reassurance. Lindeth Vasey has been an astute copy-editor. Philippa Tinsley kindly gave permission for the reproduction of Dame Laura Knight's *The Yellow Dress*, currently held in the collection of Worcester City Art Gallery, for use as the cover image.

My family have lived with this project and the huge piles of documents which I have generated with very little complaint and considerable amusement. I salute Jonathan, Benjamin, Thomas, Helen (1), Helen (2) and Ju-Fang Hsiao. A whole new generation has been born since I started and it is to them that I dedicate the book in the hope that they will grow up to enjoy the multiplicity of twenty-first century theatre. Finally I thank my husband John – for everything.

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