

Holocaust Drama

The Holocaust – the systematic attempted destruction of European Jewry and other “threats” to the Third Reich from 1933 to 1945 – has been portrayed in fiction, film, memoirs, and poetry; however, there has been a lack of information about the theater of the Holocaust. The immediacy of theater affects us emotionally, subliminally, and intellectually in a direct way that few other art forms can duplicate. Theater of the Holocaust can pay homage to the victims, educate audiences, induce an empathetic response from the audience, raise moral and ethical questions for discussion/debate, and draw lessons from history. Including thorough critical analyses of more than thirty plays, this book explores the seminal twentieth-century Holocaust dramas from the United States, Europe, and Israel. Biographical information about the playwrights, production histories of the plays, and pertinent historical information are provided, placing the plays in their historical and cultural contexts.

Gene A. Plunka is Professor of English at the University of Memphis, where he teaches courses on modern and contemporary drama. His books on the modern theater include *Peter Shaffer: Roles, Rites, and Rituals in the Theater* (1988); *The Rites of Passage of Jean Genet: The Art and Aesthetics of Risk-Taking* (1992); *Antonin Artaud and the Modern Theater* (ed., 1994); *Jean-Claude van Itallie and the Off-Broadway Theater* (1999); *The Black Comedy of John Guare* (2002); and *The Plays of Beth Henley: A Critical Study* (2005).

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