

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-56375-8 - Selected Essays by August Strindberg
Edited By Michael Robinson
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This is the first fully edited translation of a series of essays by the great Swedish dramatist August Strindberg. The essays, edited and translated by Michael Robinson, have been selected for the light they shed, both directly and indirectly, on Strindberg's contribution to the European theatre firstly in such masterpieces of psychological realism as *The Father* and *Miss Julie*, and subsequently in those works, including *A Dream Play* and *The Ghost Sonata*, with which he largely established a basis for theatrical modernism. Together with the accompanying notes and commentary, these essays on psychology, history, painting, natural history and alchemy as well as the theatre help to clarify the multifaceted nature of Strindberg's project. Idiosyncratic and lively, they offer crucial insights into the intellectual and theatrical history of the later nineteenth century, while their personal nature draws the reader into an intimate relationship with the writer and his wide range of interests.

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by
AUGUST STRINDBERG

SELECTED, EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY
MICHAEL ROBINSON
*Professor of Scandinavian Studies
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Till Siv

Vad livet och stunden gav
kan ingen ta från oss.

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Wherever possible references to Strindberg's works are to the new edition of *Samlade Verk* currently under publication (hereafter *SV*). Otherwise John Landquist's edition of *Samlade Skrifter* (Stockholm, 1912–20, hereafter *SS*) has been used. Volume and page number are given in arabic numerals. SgNM denotes Strindberg's so-called 'Gröna säcken' (The Green Sack), encompassing the drafts, notes and manuscripts he originally preserved in a green portmanteau while travelling. These are now deposited, along with much other material, in the Royal Library Stockholm, in sixty-nine box files, transferred there from a previous deposition in Nordiska Museet. The inventory of the contents undertaken by Margareta Brundin and catalogued by Barbro Ståhle Sjönell now enables an item in Gröna säcken to be identified with some precision. Thus SgNM 15: 4,7 refers to Box 15, folder 4, page (or item) 7. (For later items identification is sometimes by Box only.) *Letters I* or *II* denotes *Strindberg's Letters*, selected, annotated, and translated by Michael Robinson (London and Chicago, 1992). *Brev* followed by a roman numeral refers to the ongoing Swedish edition of Strindberg's letters, edited by Torsten Eklund and Björn Meidal (Stockholm, 1948–), and *Inferno* to the translation of Strindberg's autobiographical fiction by Mary Sandbach in *Inferno* and *From an Occult Diary* (Harmondsworth, 1979).