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978-0-521-62064-2 - David Mamet and American Macho  
Arthur Holmberg  
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## *David Mamet and American Macho*

Why did Americans reject the British gentleman as their dominant model of masculinity? Why is a boy's relationship to his mother a crucial factor in shaping his masculinity? What and how do boys learn about what it means to be a man? Holmberg demonstrates how David Mamet's plays provide insights into these questions, and into the masculine malaise. Through the gangsters, businessmen, soldiers, sailors, athletes, frontiersmen, and thugs he created, Mamet celebrates and criticizes American macho. The book provides close readings of Mamet's well-known plays as well as plays that have not previously received the critical attention they deserve and includes discussions of recent films and unpublished film scripts that shed light on Mamet's attitudes to American macho. Holmberg also presents detailed analysis of Mamet as director of his own plays, which gives fascinating insights into the playwright's intentions through his instructions to actors on how to play a part.

ARTHUR HOLMBERG is Professor of Dramatic Literature, Theatre History, and Performance Theory at Brandeis University. He is also the Literary Director of the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard. He was the US editor for *The World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre*, and he has also edited *The Lively ART: Reflections on Twenty Years of the American Repertory Theatre*. He is the author of *The Theatre of Robert Wilson*. His articles on theatre, film, and music have appeared in many publications including *The New York Times*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *The Washington Post*, and *Modern Drama*. Holmberg served as resident dramaturg at the ART, where he worked with artists including Robert Wilson, Philip Glass, and David Mamet.

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Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

## *Contents*

	<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page xi</i>
	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xiii</i>
	Introduction	i
1	Enter the cowboy	6
2	Mamet and American macho	60
3	Mothers and masculinity	90
4	The boy culture: act like a man	133
5	Mamet's pants	224
	<i>Notes</i>	<i>243</i>
	<i>Bibliography</i>	<i>275</i>
	<i>Index</i>	<i>302</i>

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[More information](#)

---

## *Illustrations*

1.1	(a) <i>The Voysey Inheritance</i> ; (b) <i>American Buffalo</i>	page 24
1.2	<i>The Untouchables</i>	29
2.1	<i>The Edge</i>	77
3.1	<i>The Cryptogram</i>	107
3.2	<i>The Cryptogram</i>	111
4.1	<i>Lansky</i>	153
4.2	<i>Lakeboat</i>	164
4.3	<i>Lakeboat</i>	170
4.4	<i>Oleanna</i>	194 and 195
4.5	<i>Oleanna</i>	203
5.1	<i>Heist</i>	232
5.2	<i>Heist</i>	236
5.3	<i>State and Main</i>	239

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