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0521641519 - Pirandello: *Six Characters in Search of an Author*

Jennifer Lorch

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Pirandello: *Six Characters in Search of an Author*

Since its explosive premiere in Rome in 1921, *Six Characters in Search of an Author* has gained worldwide recognition. Pirandello's challenge to the very notion of stage representation was taken up by the leading directors of the time. The playwright incorporated details from the early performances into his revised text, which he directed himself in 1925. Jennifer Lorch examines the two texts in the context of different theatrical traditions and traces Pirandello's growing awareness of the development of advanced theatrical facilities outside Italy. She also offers an analysis of selected productions of the play in Italy, England, France, the USA, Germany and Russia in both commercial and avant-garde theatres. This comprehensive study includes a production chronology, bibliography and illustrations from major productions.

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PIRANDELLO
Six Characters in Search of an Author

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JENNIFER LORCH

University of Warwick



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CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page ix
<i>General preface</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
Introduction	1
1 <i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i> – the play (1921)	15
2 The first production: Teatro Valle, Rome, 9 May 1921, directed by Dario Niccodemi	31
3 Two early productions in London and New York (1922)	44
4 Pitoëff's production in Paris (1923)	54
5 Reinhardt's production in Berlin (1924)	68
6 Pirandello's production of the 1925 text (1925)	79
7 <i>Six Characters</i> on the Italian stage (1936–1993)	93
8 Two English productions (1929 and 1963)	124
9 Becoming part of national theatre in France and England	135
10 Making <i>Six Characters</i> accessible: Robert Brustein and Richard Jones	155
11 Pushing at the frontiers of theatre: Klaus Michael Grüber and Anatoli Vasiliev	170
12 A brief look at <i>Six Characters</i> in other media	195
Conclusion	199

Cambridge University Press

0521641519 - Pirandello: Six Characters in Search of an Author

Jennifer Lorch

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii Contents

<i>Select production chronology</i>	204
<i>Notes</i>	210
<i>Select bibliography</i>	239
<i>Index</i>	247

ILLUSTRATIONS

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1 Vera Vergani as the Stepdaughter in the first production, directed by Dario Niccodemi, Teatro Valle, Rome, 1921. (Photo: Museo dell'Attore, Genoa.) | <i>page 42</i> |
| 2 The first American production, directed by Brock Pemberton, Princess Theater, New York, 1922. (Photo: The Billy Rose Theatre Collection New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Lenox and Tilden Foundation.) | 48 |
| 3 The first production in France, directed by Georges Pitoëff, Comédie des Champs-Élysées, Paris, 1923. (Photo: Nicholas Treatt.) | 65 |
| 4 The production by Max Reinhardt, Die Komödie, Berlin, 1924. (Photo: Museo dell'Attore, Genoa.) | 77 |
| 5 The first production of the 1925 text, directed by Luigi Pirandello, Teatro Odescalchi, Rome, 1925. (Photo: Museo dell'Attore, Genoa.) | 90 |
| 6 The production by Giorgio de Lullo, Teatro Quirino, Rome, 1964. (Photo: Museo dell'Attore, Genoa.) | 108 |
| 7 The production by Tyrone Guthrie, Festival Theatre, Cambridge, 1929. (Photo: Pollard Crowther.) | 129 |
| 8 The Comédie française production by Antoine Bourseiller, 1978. (Photo: Claude Angelini, Bibliothèque de la Comédie française.) | 144 |
| 9 Production by Michael Rudman, National Theatre, London, 1987. (Photo: Mac Dougall, Group Three Photography.) | 150 |

Cambridge University Press

0521641519 - Pirandello: Six Characters in Search of an Author

Jennifer Lorch

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x List of illustrations

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 10 | Production by Richard Jones, Young Vic Theatre, 2001.
(Photo: Keith Patterson, Young Vic Theatre.) | 168 |
| 11 | The production by Anatoli Vasiliev, School of Dramatic
Art, Moscow, 1987. (Photo: F. Bezukladnikov, courtesy
of Birgit Beumers.) | 193 |

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0521641519 - Pirandello: Six Characters in Search of an Author

Jennifer Lorch

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GENERAL PREFACE

Volumes in the series *Plays in Production* take major dramatic texts and examine their transposition, firstly on to the stage and, secondly, where appropriate, into other media. Each book includes concise but informed studies of individual dramatic texts, focusing on the original theatrical and historical context of a play in relation to its initial performance and reception followed by subsequent major interpretations on stage, both under the impact of changing social, political and cultural values, and in response to developments in the theatre generally.

Many of the plays also have been transposed into other media – film, opera, television, ballet – which may well be the form in which they are first encountered by a contemporary audience. Thus, a substantial study of the play-text and the issues it raises for theatrical realization is supplemented by an assessment of such adaptations as well as the production history, where the emphasis is on the development of a performance tradition for each work, including staging and acting styles, rather than simply the archaeological reconstruction of past performances.

Plays included in the series are all likely to receive regular performance and individual volumes will be of interest to the informed reader as well as to students of theatre history and literature. Each book also contains an annotated production chronology as well as numerous photographs from key performances.

Michael Robinson
University of East Anglia

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As any one who has attempted to do this knows, the acquisition of illustrations can be both time-consuming and frustrating. I have been most fortunate in my dealings with Birgit Beumers of the University of Bristol, Annette Fern of the Houghton Library of the Harvard College Library, James McDougall of Group Three Photography, Mélanie Petetin of the Comédie française and Gian Domenico Ricaldone of the Biblioteca dell'Attore, Genoa. That I have not always used the photographs provided in no way diminishes my appreciation of their assistance.

Cambridge University Press
0521641519 - Pirandello: Six Characters in Search of an Author
Jennifer Lorch
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Acknowledgements xiii

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Jennifer Lorch