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0521802644 - Theatre, Society and the Nation: Staging American Identities

S. E. Wilmer

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*Theatre, Society and the Nation: Staging  
American Identities*

Theatre has often served as a touchstone for moments of political change or national definition and as a way of exploring cultural and ethnic identity. In this book Wilmer selects key historical moments in American history and examines how the theatre, in formal and informal settings, responded to these events. The book moves from the Colonial fight for independence, through Native American struggles, the Socialist Worker play, the Civil Rights Movement, and up to works of the last decade, including Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*. In addition to examining theatrical events and play texts, Wilmer also considers audience reception and critical response.

S. E. WILMER is a Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, and formerly Director of the School of Drama. He has been a Visiting Professor at Stanford University and University of California, Berkeley, and a member of the faculty of the International Centre for Advanced Theatre Studies, in Finland. He is editor of *Portraits of Courage: Plays by Finnish Women* (Helsinki University Press, 1997) and of *Beckett in Dublin* (Lilliput, 1992), among other works. Wilmer is also a playwright, with his works performed at the Manhattan Theatre Club and Lincoln Center.

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# *Theatre, Society and the Nation*

## *Staging American Identities*

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