

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-88254-5 — Neil LaBute
Christopher Bigsby
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Neil LaBute: Stage and Cinema

Neil LaBute is one of the most exciting new talents in theatre and film to have emerged in the 1990s. Influenced and inspired by such writers as David Mamet, Edward Bond and Harold Pinter, he is equally at home writing for the screen and the stage, and the list of films he has written and directed includes *The Wicker Man* (2006), *Possession* (2002) and *in the company of men* (1998). As a playwright, screenwriter, director, and author of short stories, he has staked out a distinctive, and disturbing, territory. In this first full-length study on LaBute, Christopher Bigsby examines his darkly funny work which explores the cruelties, self-concern and manipulative powers of individuals who inhabit a seemingly uncommunal world. Individual chapters are dedicated to particular works, and the book also includes an interview with LaBute, providing a fascinating insight into the life of this influential and often controversial figure.

CHRISTOPHER BIGSBY is Professor of American Studies at the University of East Anglia and has published more than thirty books covering American theatre, popular culture and British drama, including *Modern American Drama* (Cambridge, 1992), *Arthur Miller: A Critical Study* (Cambridge, 2005), *Remembering and Imagining the Holocaust: The Chain of Memory* (Cambridge, 2006) and *The Cambridge Companion to August Wilson* (2007). He is co-editor, with Don Wilmeth, of *The Cambridge History of American Theatre*, which received the Barnard Hewitt Award for Outstanding Research from the American Society for Theatre Research. He is also an award-winning novelist, has written plays for radio and television and is a regular radio and television broadcaster.

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Contents

1	Introduction	i
2	<i>bash: latterday plays</i>	20
3	<i>in the company of men</i>	36
4	<i>Your Friends & Neighbors</i>	57
5	<i>the shape of things</i>	79
6	<i>The Mercy Seat</i>	103
7	<i>The Distance From Here</i>	118
8	<i>Seconds of Pleasure</i>	133
9	<i>autobahn</i>	145
10	<i>Fat Pig and This Is How It Goes</i>	164
11	<i>Nurse Betty, Possession and The Wicker Man</i>	186
12	<i>Some Girl(s), Wrecks and In a Dark Dark House</i>	206
13	An interview with Neil LaBute	235
	<i>Notes</i>	260
	<i>Index</i>	268