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978-0-521-89976-5 - The Spectator and the Spectacle: Audiences in Modernity and Postmodernity

Dennis Kennedy

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THE SPECTATOR AND THE SPECTACLE: AUDIENCES IN MODERNITY AND POSTMODERNITY

Spectators and audiences are everywhere in contemporary culture. However, even in conventional performance, whether in the theatre, in film or television, or at a sporting event, it is difficult to discuss spectators with any authority, since each of us experiences and understands the display in different ways and all methods of analysing spectators are flawed or unreliable. This book provides instead a series of investigations into specific types of performance activity, and how they relate to their audiences. Topics discussed include the relationship of audiences to the rise of the director, the avant-garde, tourism, gambling, the effect of cinema on live performance, and sport, including crowd violence. Spectatorship is an area of increasing importance in the field of theatre and performance studies, and this engaging study is a valuable contribution to the development of thinking about audiences and spectators.

DENNIS KENNEDY is Beckett Professor of Drama Emeritus in Trinity College Dublin. His books include *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Theatre and Performance*, *Looking at Shakespeare: a Visual History of Twentieth-Century Performance*, *Foreign Shakespeare*, *Granville Barker and the Dream of Theatre* and *Plays by Harley Granville Barker*. His essays have appeared in numerous books and journals, and he has lectured widely on performance subjects around the world. His own plays have been performed in many places including New York and London, and he has frequently worked as a dramaturg and director in professional theatres.

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In Memoriam
Daniel A. Ritter

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