

TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS

The early years of the twenty-first century saw several losses for the American theatre but also marked the emergence of a new generation of exciting playwrights. In this book, Christopher Bigsby explores the work of nine of these developing talents and the importance of issues including race, gender and politics for their writing. Increasingly, these new figures are gaining their reputations not on Broadway but in small theatres and towns or even abroad, bringing fresh and diverse perspectives to contemporary American drama. With a focus on female writers and on issues of personal and public identity in contemporary society, this volume investigates the styles and techniques these playwrights favour, the themes they embrace and their role in a changing America and a changing world.

CHRISTOPHER BIGSBY is Professor of American Studies at the University of East Anglia and a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Society of Literature. He has published more than fifty books, with his recent titles including *The Cambridge Companion to Modern American Culture* (Cambridge 2006), *The Cambridge Companion to August Wilson* (Cambridge 2007) and *Viewing America: Twenty-First-Century Television Drama* (Cambridge 2013).

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Contents

Introduction	<i>page</i> 1
1 Annie Baker	6
2 Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig	29
3 Katori Hall	48
4 Amy Herzog	73
5 Tracy Letts	92
6 David Lindsay-Abaire	120
7 Lynn Nottage	142
8 Sarah Ruhl	167
9 Naomi Wallace	194
<i>Index</i>	221