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British theatre underwent a vast transformation and expansion in the decades after the Second World War. This Companion explores the historical, political and social contexts and conditions that not only allowed it to expand but, crucially, shaped it. Resisting a critical tendency to focus on plays alone, the collection expands understanding of British theatre by illuminating contexts such as funding, unionisation, devolution, immigration and changes to legislation. Divided into four parts, it guides readers through changing attitudes to theatre-making (acting, directing, writing), theatre sectors (West End, subsidised, fringe), theatre communities (audiences, Black theatre, queer theatre) and theatre's relationship to the state (government, infrastructure, nationhood). Supplemented by a valuable chronology and guide to further reading, it presents up-to-date approaches informed by critical race theory, queer studies, audience studies and archival research to demonstrate important new ways of conceptualising post-war British theatre's history, practices and potential futures.

JEN HARVIE is Professor of Contemporary Theatre and Performance at Queen Mary University of London. Her books include *Staging the UK* (2005), *Fair Play: Art, Performance and Neoliberalism* (2013) and *The Routledge Companion to Theatre and Performance* (2nd ed. 2014). She co-edits the book series *Theatre &*.

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Edited by Jen Harvie, Dan Rebellato

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THE CAMBRIDGE  
COMPANION TO BRITISH  
THEATRE SINCE 1945

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