The Cambridge Companion to American Theatre since 1945 provides an overview and analysis of developments in the organization and practices of American theatre. It examines key demographic and geographical shifts that American theatre after 1945 has experienced in spectatorship and addresses the economic, social, and political challenges theatre artists have faced across cultural climates and geographical locations. Specifically, it explores artistic communities, collaborative practices, and theatre methodologies across mainstream, regional, and experimental theatre practices, forms, and expressions. As American theatre has embraced diversity in practice and representation, the volume examines the various creative voices, communities, and perspectives that prior to the 1940s were mostly excluded from the theatrical landscape. This diversity has led to changing dramaturgical and theatrical languages that take us into the twenty-first century. These shifting perspectives and evolving forms of theatrical expression paved the ground for contemporary American theatrical innovation.


Stephen Di Benedetto is Professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre at Michigan State University. Among his numerous publications are The Provocation of the Senses in Contemporary Theatre, An Introduction to Theatre Design, and the coedited Designers’ Shakespeare.
The Cambridge Companions to Theatre and Performance collection publishes specially commissioned volumes of new essays designed for students at universities and drama schools, and their teachers. Each volume focuses on a key topic, practitioner or form and offers a balanced and wide-ranging overview of its subject. Content includes historical and political contexts, case studies, critical and theoretical approaches, afterlives, and guidance on further reading.

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