



## The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks)

From Oxford University Press

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

### The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press

When one thinks of American Drama, names like Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller, and Tennessee Williams readily come to mind. However, as The Oxford Handbook of American Drama shows, the U.S. has a deep and varied tradition that extends back to the years before the Revolutionary War. The essays gathered here trace U.S dramatic history, ranging from plays by Mercy Otis Warren to Tony Kushner.

The volume opens with an exploration of the trials and tribulations of strolling players in the colonial era, before shifting to a discussion of the ways plays were deployed for political ends during the Revolution, most notably by the patriot Mercy Otis Warren. The narrative extends to the post-Revolutionary period when plays were used as vehicles to promote republican virtue. Contributors also explore the vibrant drama to emerge during the nineteenth century, when blackface performers and stars such as Edwin Forrest, Charlotte Cushman, and Edwin Booth dominated the stage. The period also witnessed the arrival of the first piece of musical theater, *The Black Crook*, which is productively situated in a musical tradition that extends to Rodgers and Hammerstein. *The Handbook* offers a complex treatment of melodrama - the most popular genre of the century. The volume traces the rise of the country's first black acting company in the 1820s, as well as the growing number of ethnic characters presented on the stage. Several of the contributors also highlight the role of women playwrights such as Anna Cora Mowatt in the development of American drama.

At the turn of the twentieth century, the Provincetown Players helped to usher in the era of modern drama, which allowed playwrights such as Eugene O'Neill, Susan Glaspell, and Edna St. Vincent Millay to experiment with the form and attempt topics regarded as taboo at the time. As melodrama gave way to realism, exemplified in the work of O'Neill and Rachel Crothers, other dramatic techniques such as naturalism and expressionism were introduced to the stage. Other topics covered in the Handbook include: the political plays of Arthur Miller; the major freedoms brought to the American stage since the 1960s; the new generation of playwrights, such as Tony Kushner and Harvey Fierstein, who created plays dealing explicitly with topics like AIDS and homosexuality; and

the rich genealogy of the African American family play in works by Lorraine Hansberry, August Wilson, and Suzan-Lori Parks. The volume concludes with the bold performance art of the Living Theatre and the new multiculturalism that arrived on the contemporary stage, with various ethnic communities --Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Asians, and Native Americans--becoming the focus of the action. *The Oxford Handbook of American Drama* presents a comprehensive introduction to the form in all its guises.

 [Download The Oxford Handbook of American Drama \(Oxford Hand...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Oxford Handbook of American Drama \(Oxford Ha...pdf](#)

# **The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks)**

*From Oxford University Press*

## **The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press**

When one thinks of American Drama, names like Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller, and Tennessee Williams readily come to mind. However, as The Oxford Handbook of American Drama shows, the U.S. has a deep and varied tradition that extends back to the years before the Revolutionary War. The essays gathered here trace U.S dramatic history, ranging from plays by Mercy Otis Warren to Tony Kushner.

The volume opens with an exploration of the trials and tribulations of strolling players in the colonial era, before shifting to a discussion of the ways plays were deployed for political ends during the Revolution, most notably by the patriot Mercy Otis Warren. The narrative extends to the post-Revolutionary period when plays were used as vehicles to promote republican virtue. Contributors also explore the vibrant drama to emerge during the nineteenth century, when blackface performers and stars such as Edwin Forrest, Charlotte Cushman, and Edwin Booth dominated the stage. The period also witnessed the arrival of the first piece of musical theater, *The Black Crook*, which is productively situated in a musical tradition that extends to Rodgers and Hammerstein. *The Handbook* offers a complex treatment of melodrama - the most popular genre of the century. The volume traces the rise of the country's first black acting company in the 1820s, as well as the growing number of ethnic characters presented on the stage. Several of the contributors also highlight the role of women playwrights such as Anna Cora Mowatt in the development of American drama.

At the turn of the twentieth century, the Provincetown Players helped to usher in the era of modern drama, which allowed playwrights such as Eugene O'Neill, Susan Glaspell, and Edna St. Vincent Millay to experiment with the form and attempt topics regarded as taboo at the time. As melodrama gave way to realism, exemplified in the work of O'Neill and Rachel Crothers, other dramatic techniques such as naturalism and expressionism were introduced to the stage. Other topics covered in the Handbook include: the political plays of Arthur Miller; the major freedoms brought to the American stage since the 1960s; the new generation of playwrights, such as Tony Kushner and Harvey Fierstein, who created plays dealing explicitly with topics like AIDS and homosexuality; and the rich genealogy of the African American family play in works by Lorraine Hansberry, August Wilson, and Suzan-Lori Parks. The volume concludes with the bold performance art of the Living Theatre and the new multiculturalism that arrived on the contemporary stage, with various ethnic communities --Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Asians, and Native Americans--becoming the focus of the action. *The Oxford Handbook of American Drama* presents a comprehensive introduction to the form in all its guises.

## **The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #3225964 in Books
- Published on: 2014-01-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1

- Dimensions: 7.20" h x 1.80" w x 9.90" l, 2.35 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 592 pages

 [Download](#) The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Hand ...pdf

 [Read Online](#) The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Ha ...pdf

---

## Download and Read Free Online The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

"There are more than a few 'handbooks,' 'guidebooks,' or 'companions to' out there, but *The Oxford Handbook of American Drama* is uncommon in its thorough and wide-ranging presentation of multiple topics.... Most impressive are the ways in which the book merges the familiar with the more shadowed corners of the American canon, and, in most cases, individual topics are each engagingly unpacked by a major scholar specializing in a particular subject.... The often astonishing, politically and emotionally wrenching, and riotously entertaining theatrical heritage of the United States is fully present here in chapters immersing the reader in the work of diverse artists, companies, historical issues, and recurring themes emerging from 350-plus years of the nation's still comparatively young existence." --*Journal of Dramatic Theory & Criticism*

"Lead editor Jeffrey H. Richards, along with coeditor Heather S. Nathans, who completed the book after Richards's death...are among the leading scholars of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American stage, with a strong interest in surveying the rich and complex dramatic landscape before the modernist era.... [A]conspicuous feature of this collection is its thematic interconnections, with several key topics and issues treated in multiple essays spanning different historical periods." --*Eugene O'Neill Review*

"*The Oxford Handbook of American Drama* gathers short, evocative essays by well-known scholars into a comprehensive overview of the field.... Short, tightly focused essays balance the need for clear outlines and introductions with creative and probing forays into the field's central questions. Up-to-date citations and generous lists of sources ably guide scholars toward materials for further research. In short, it is-as one would expect from a major press-a well-conceived and executed handbook, a useful starting place for scholars new to the field and a valuable tool for those wishing to revisit the field's central ongoing discussions." --*Early American Literature*

#### About the Author

**Jeffrey H. Richards** was Eminent Professor of Literature at Old Dominion University. He was the author of *Drama Theater, and Identity in the American New Republic* and the editor of *Early Plays: Eugene O'Neill and Early American Drama* (Penguin; 2001, 1997).

Heather S. Nathans is Professor of Theatre at the University of Maryland and the new President of the American Society for Theatre Research.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

**Maureen Jones:**

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or even goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. These are reading whatever they get because their hobby is reading a book. What about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, man feel need book after they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you'll have this The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks).

**Samantha Peay:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try and and must have the extra time or they will get lots of stress from both daily life and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not just a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is definitely The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks).

**Randy Gable:**

This The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) is great reserve for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who also always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it data accurately using great arrange word or we can state no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) in your hand like getting the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen minute right but this e-book already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that?

**Malcolm Moser:**

You are able to spend your free time to learn this book this reserve. This The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) is simple to bring you can read it in the area, in the beach, train as well as soon. If you did not include much space to bring typically the printed book, you can buy typically the e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save the book in your smart phone. Consequently there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

## **Download and Read Online The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press**

**#Q5GSAFHXLM8**

# **Read The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press for online ebook**

The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press books to read online.

## **Online The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press ebook PDF download**

**The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press Doc**

**The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press MobiPocket**

**The Oxford Handbook of American Drama (Oxford Handbooks) From Oxford University Press EPub**