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and the Politics
of Puerto Rican
Diasporic Drama

Jon D. Rossini



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PRAGMATIC LIBERATION AND THE POLITICS OF PUERTO RICAN DIASPORIC DRAMA

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Pragmatic Liberation and the Politics of Puerto Rican Diasporic Drama explores the work of a unique group of playwrights—Puerto Rican dramatists writing in the United States—who offer a model of political engagement. As members of the Puerto Rican diaspora, they have a heightened awareness of the systematic discrimination and the colonial citizenship created by Puerto Rico's territorial status. *Pragmatic Liberation* analyzes the work of established playwrights as well as work that has previously received little attention in the world of theater studies, including René Marqués's *Palm Sunday*. The book demonstrates how these playwrights use basic strategies of dramatic world building, premise, and given circumstances to model a nuanced way of moving toward liberation, while sensitive to the potential impact these actions might have on those closest to us. This is a crucially important model that needs more attention in our currently polarized political moment.

Jon D. Rossini is Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance and Performance Studies, at the University of California, Davis.



An expansive analysis of recent Puerto Rican theater and a compelling critique of the role theater and art play in imagining and inspiring transformative political action. The author's focus on pragmatic liberation underscores the limitations of the theater's engagement with political discourse, as well as the indirect and decentralized forms of political action that have characterized PR decolonial activism . . . a significant contribution."

—Israel Reyes, Dartmouth College

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