Contents

1. Digging (Up) the Scene: An Introduction 1
2. Setting the Scene: A Look at the Fifties 16

3. Caffe Cino: The Birth of a Movement 39
4. Judson Poets’ Theater: Verse Plays and Vaudeville Skits 61
5. La Mama ETC: Hurrah for the Playwright 83
6. Theatre Genesis: Urban Prophecy 105

Part Two: Present Collaborations, 1963–68
8. The Judson “Musical”: Sublimely Ridiculous? 147
9. The Open Theatre: Transformations 169
10. La Mama Troupe: The Kernel of Craziness 192

Part Three: Changing Times, 1966–73
14. Death and Disaster: Leaving the Caffe Cino 279
15. The Absence of Peace: Changing Politics, Changing Communities 301
16. Going Solo: Auteurs, Poseurs, and La Mama 322
17. Signals through the Flames: The Afterlife of a Movement 344

Appendix A: Chronology of Notable Events and Productions 367
Appendix B: Interviewees, Correspondents, and Discussants 375
Bibliography 377
Index 389