
Contents

Introduction I

HENRY BIAL AND SCOTT MAGELSSSEN

PART I – Unearthing the Past ∞

Unspeakable Histories

Terror, Spectacle, and Genocidal Memory II

ODAI JOHNSON

Against Plausibility 22

ELLEN MACKAY

The Spark of Strangeness

William Davenant, Piracy, and Surprises in Theater History 32

ROBERT B. SHIMKO

Is There Too Much “History” in My Theater History?

*Exploring the Roles of Jewish Actors and Audiences
in the Early National Playhouse* 45

HEATHER S. NATHANS

PART II – The Stakes of Historiography ∞

The Theater of the Absurd and the Historization of the Present 61

BRANISLAV JAKOVLJEVIC

No Hint as to the Author Is Anywhere Found

*Problems of Using Nineteenth-Century Ethnography in
Latin American Theater History* 74

E. J. WESTLAKE

Sodomitical Politics

The 1737 Licensing Act and The Vision of the Golden Rump 88

ALAN SIKES

But Is It Theater?

The Impact of Colonial Culture on Theatrical History in India 99

ERIN B. MEE

Sympathy for the Devil

Nonprogressive Activism and the Limits of Critical Generosity 110

JOHN FLETCHER

PART III – Historiography for a New Millennium ∞

Theater History and Digital Historiography 125

SARAH BAY-CHENG

Writing with Paint 137

HARVEY YOUNG

Beyond the Nature/Culture Divide

*Challenges from Ecocriticism and Evolutionary Biology
for Theater Historiography* 148

WENDY ARONS

“Or I’ll Die”

Death and Dying on Page and Stage 162

JONATHAN CHAMBERS

PART IV – Performance as Historiography ∞

Corpsing Molière

History as Fiasco 177

MECHELE LEON

The Ice

A Collective History of the History of Our Collectivity in the Theater 186

NICHOLAS RIDOUT

Finding History from the Living Archives

Inscribing Interviews and Interventions 197

SUK-YOUNG KIM

Performance as Learner-Driven Historiography 208

SCOTT MAGELSSSEN

PART V – Theater History’s Discipline 

Interdisciplinary Objects, Oceanic Insights

Performance and the New Materialism 221

MARGARET WERRY

Intradisciplinarity in Theater History

Anne Oldfield’s Mrs. Brittle via Brecht’s Not/But 235

JAMES PECK

History Takes Time 249

PATRICIA YBARRA

“I’ll Cover You”

An Interdisciplinary Duet on Rent and Collaborative

Musical Theater Historiography 262

JUDITH SEBESTA AND JESSICA STERNFELD

PS: Can We Talk about Something Else? 276

HENRY BIAL

Contributors 287

Index 293