Contents

INTRODUCTION: Dramaturgies of Whiteness in Contemporary African American Performance 1

CHAPTER ONE Douglas Turner Ward’s Play on Whiteness: Day of Absence on America’s Public Stages 30

CHAPTER TWO Staging Hegemonic Whiteness: The Bluest Eye and the Performative Paradoxes of (In)visibility 80

CHAPTER THREE Whiteness as “Becoming”: The Corporeal Crossovers of Daniel Tisdale and Michael Jackson 117

CHAPTER FOUR “Mixing It Up”: Enacting Whiteness in the Comedic World of Dave Chappelle 161

CHAPTER FIVE “Sounding Off on Sounding White”: Aural Whiteness, Linguistic Whiteface, and the Economics of Opportunity 194

CODA: Whiteface to Postrace? The Artful Interrogations of Jefferson Pinder 225

Notes 239

Bibliography 277

Index 293