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Entertaining the Nation: American Drama in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

By Tice L. Miller, Robert A. Schanke

Southern Illinois University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Entertaining the Nation: American Drama in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, Tice L. Miller, Robert A. Schanke, In this survey of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American drama, Tice L. Miller examines American plays written before a canon was established in American dramatic literature and provides analyses central to the culture that produced them. "Entertaining the Nation: American Drama in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries" evaluates plays in the early years of the republic, reveals shifts in taste from the classical to the contemporary in the 1840s and 1850s, and considers the increasing influence of realism at the end of the nineteenth century. Miller explores the relationship between American drama and societal issues during this period. While never completely shedding its English roots, says Miller, the American drama addressed issues important on this side of the Atlantic such as egalitarianism, republicanism, immigration, slavery, the West, Wall Street, and the Civil War. In considering the theme of egalitarianism, the volume notes Alexis de Tocqueville's observation in 1831 that equality was more important to Americans than liberty. Also addressed is the Yankee character, which became a staple in American comedy for much of the...



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