



The Essential Theatre

By Oscar G. Brockett, Robert J. Ball, John Fleming, Andrew Carlson

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Noted as one of the most comprehensive, authoritative surveys of the theatre in academia, **THE ESSENTIAL THEATRE**, 11th Edition, engages your students and gets them excited about theatre. Drawing from the expertise of the authors as dedicated teachers, published scholars, and practicing artists, this text is ideal for an introductory theatre course. Its vibrant and numerous representations of current and classic performances encourage students to become active theatergoers and fans. The Eleventh Edition includes an all-new chapter devoted to musical theatre, while the thoroughly revised chapter on acting covers the diversity of contemporary approaches. The text also includes numerous new photos, new "Then and Now" boxes, and expanded use of dates to provide context for artists' major works. In addition, a companion anthology, **PLAYS FOR THE THEATRE**, 11th Edition, contains scripts that serve as a foundation for discussion of the various types of theatrical experience explored in the text.

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Review

"The comprehensive detail of each chapter is excellent. The topics covered are relevant to modern students' interests and even present some controversial issues that only theater can speak to. ... Contemporary photographs are also a wonderful enhancement and the physical page layout is colorful and engaging to students."

"THE ESSENTIAL THEATRE is a well-written, intellectually rigorous textbook. ... The way that it presents the essential elements of theatre provides excellent building blocks for a beginning theatre student."

About the Author

Oscar G. Brockett will always have an international reputation as a theatre historian. A Distinguished Scholar honoree of the American Society of Theatre Research, he received career achievement awards from both the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology. In addition, he was a recipient of the Robert Lewis Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Theatre Research. After receiving his Ph.D. from Stanford University, he taught at several major American universities and at the University of Bristol in England. He also served as president of the American Theatre Association, dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas, editor of THEATRE JOURNAL, and editorial board member of the ASIAN THEATRE JOURNAL. He held the prestigious University of Texas Z.T. Scott Family Chair in Drama and was director of the Center for Dramatic and Performance Studies for several years. Dr. Brockett authored many articles in leading journals and several books, including HISTORY OF THE THEATRE. At the time of his passing, he was serving as a distinguished teaching professor at the University of Texas at Austin and the dean of the Fellows of the American Theatre.

Robert J. Ball has ample experience as a successful teacher of Introduction to Theatre and Theatre Appreciation courses at a number of large and small universities, including Trinity University, the University of Texas, and Vanderbilt University. He is also a practicing actor and director with numerous professional credits in American regional theatres, as well as credits for national and international touring productions. Dr. Ball received his Ph.D. in theatre history and criticism from the University of Texas and is currently the chair and artistic director of the Theatre Arts program at the University of the Incarnate Word.

John Fleming, a former Brockett student, was chosen by the Brockett estate to extend the legacy of Oscar Brockett's foundational text. He has taught Introduction to Theatre, Theatre History, and a variety of other classes at the University of Texas, Auburn University, and Texas State University. His books and articles focus on contemporary theatre, while his plays have been popular with undergraduate audiences. After many years as chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at Texas State University, Dr. Fleming now serves as dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Andrew Carlson is managing director of the Oscar G. Brockett Center for Theatre History and Criticism at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches Introduction to Theatre, Dramatic Literature, Dramaturgy, and Shakespeare. He is a professional dramaturg and actor, who writes about theatrical practice in scholarly contexts. In addition, he is an artistic associate with the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona, Minn., where he has performed roles such as Hamlet (HAMLET), Edmund (KING LEAR), and Hotspur (HENRY IV, PART I).

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