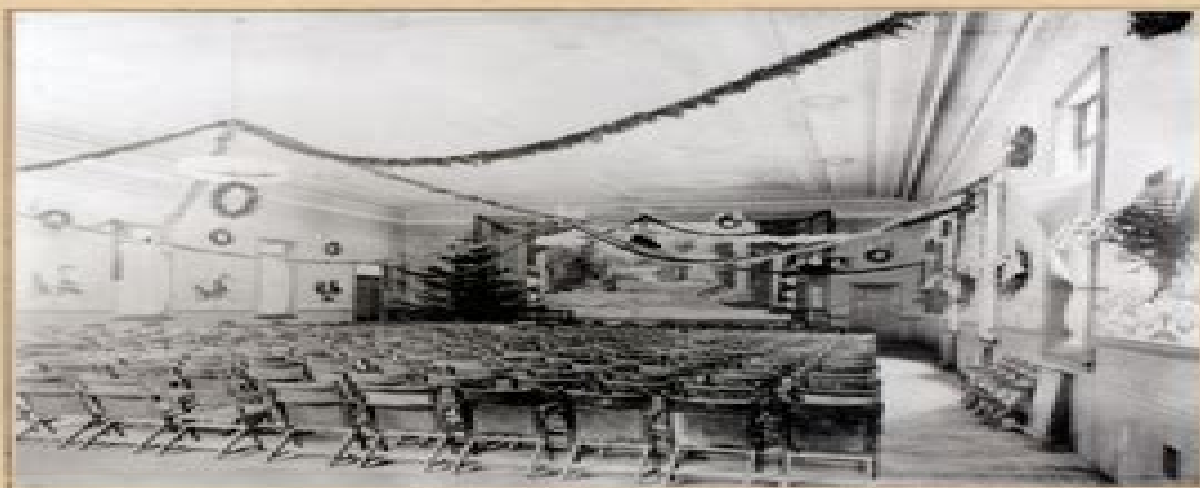




THEATERS OF MADNESS

**Insane Asylums & Nineteenth-Century
American Culture**

BENJAMIN REISS

Theaters Of Madness Theaters Of Madness

Brian Hannan



Theaters Of Madness Theaters Of Madness:

Theaters of Madness Benjamin Reiss, 2008-09-15 In the mid 1800s a utopian movement to rehabilitate the insane resulted in a wave of publicly funded asylums many of which became unexpected centers of cultural activity Housed in magnificent structures with lush grounds patients participated in theatrical programs debating societies literary journals schools and religious services *Theaters of Madness* explores both the culture these rich offerings fomented and the asylum's place in the fabric of nineteenth century life reanimating a time when the treatment of the insane was a central topic in debates over democracy freedom and modernity Benjamin Reiss explores the creative lives of patients and the cultural demands of their doctors Their frequently clashing views turned practically all of American culture from blackface minstrel shows to the works of William Shakespeare into a battlefield in the war on insanity Reiss also shows how asylums touched the lives and shaped the writing of key figures such as Emerson and Poe who viewed the system alternately as the fulfillment of a democratic ideal and as a kind of medical enslavement Without neglecting this troubling contradiction *Theaters of Madness* prompts us to reflect on what our society can learn from a generation that urgently and creatively tried to solve the problem of mental illness *The Ritual Theater of Aimé Césaire* Marianne Wichmann Bailey, 1992 *Separate Theaters* Kenneth S. Jackson, 2005 This specifically literary historical study situates the rather sudden emergence of madhouses Bedlam on the Shakespearean stage in the sophisticated literary dispute known as the Poets War wherein various dramatists particularly Jonson and Shakespeare argued about what drama was supposed to be Madness became a rhetorical battleground of artistic ideas and that dispute rather than any desire to represent the actual hospital led to the appearance of Bedlam on the stage *Coming Back to a Theater Near You* Brian Hannan, 2016-06-05 In the Silent Era film reissues were a battle between rival studios every Mary Pickford new release in 1914 was met with a Pickford re-release For 50 years after the Silent Era reissues were a battle between the studios who considered old movies found money and cinema owners who often saw audiences reject former box office hits In the mid 1960s the return of *The Bridge on the River Kwai* 1957 the second biggest reissue of all time altered industry perceptions and James Bond double features pushed the revival market to new heights In the digital age reissues have continued to confound the critics This is the untold hundred year story of how old movies saved new Hollywood Covering the booms and busts of a recycling business that became its own industry the author describes how the likes of Charlie Chaplin Humphrey Bogart and Alfred Hitchcock won over new generations of audiences and explores the lasting appeal of films like *Napoleon* 1927 *Gone with the Wind* 1939 *The Rocky Horror Show* 1975 and *Blade Runner* 1982 *Sound and Sense in Contemporary Theatre* Matthew Tomkinson, 2025-01-11 This book is among the first to consider the subject of mad auralities in theatre and performance asking what does it mean to hear and listen madly Drawing widely upon mad studies critical disability studies theatre studies sound studies queer studies and critical race theory it seeks to explore the theatrical relationship between sound and mental health differences by examining

a range of case studies in which audience members are immersed in auditory simulations of madness Ultimately however this critical study investigates the shortcomings of simulation as a representational practice in keeping with the critical tradition of disability studies and mad studies

The Sicilian Puppet Theater of Agrippino Manteo (1884-1947) Jo Ann Cavallo, 2023-06-13 Joint winner of The Literary Encyclopedia book prize 2024 category Literatures written in languages other than English Winner of the Nancy Staub Publications Award 2024 Winner of the AATI Book Award 2024 for Literary Critical Theory and Cultural Studies Sicilian puppet theater is a unique nineteenth and twentieth century popular theatrical tradition based on the masterpieces of medieval and Renaissance chivalric literature It flourished not only in southern Italy and Sicily but also in the diasporic Italian urban communities of North and South America and North Africa bringing immigrants together for nightly performances of the same deeply cherished chivalric stories Even though this art form was designated by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity in 2001 it remains largely unknown today because by the late 1950s Sicilian puppet theater companies had ceased to perform the full Paladins of France cycle that used to extend nightly for well over a year Thus the only means we have left to explore the substance of this once widely enjoyed cultural phenomenon are the scripts dating from opera dei pupi's heyday Most of these invaluable documents however have been lost while the few sets still in existence are either privately owned by the remaining puppeteer families and collectors or tucked away in the archives of Italian institutions Thanks to the newly accessible scripts of the preeminent Catanese American puppeteer Agrippino Manteo 1884-1947 whose career stretched from Sicily to Argentina to New York students scholars and the general public can now explore the cycle of chivalric narratives staged during the golden age of Sicilian puppet theater The many delicate hand written notebooks containing Agrippino Manteo's dramatic repertory are not only of interest for their historical and aesthetic value These masterfully executed theatrical adaptations invite readers into a chivalric world featuring knights and damsels from across the globe from Europe to Africa to East Asia who share the stage with a host of wizards fairies giants and monsters in alternating episodes of love enchantment adventure and warfare The concerns with which they engage such as justice identity duty love freedom and virtue transcend the categories of elite and folk local and global medieval and modern interrogating what it means to be human This book provides the most comprehensive history to date of the Manteo Family's Sicilian Marionette Theater across three generations and brings to light for the first time the contents of Agrippino Manteo's extensive Sicilian puppet theater scripts including translations of 8 selected plays and 270 extant play summaries of the famous Paladins of France cycle Accompanying comparative analyses uncover the creative process of adaptation from Italian Renaissance masterpieces of chivalric poetry to nineteenth century prose compilations to Agrippino's opera dei pupi scripts

The Modern Russian Theater Nicholas Rzhevsky, 2008-10-27 This comprehensive and original survey of Russian theater in the twentieth century and into the twenty first encompasses the major productions of directors such as Meyerhold Stanislavsky Tovstonogov Dodin and Liubimov that drew from Russian and world literature

It is based on a close analysis of adaptations of literary works by Pushkin Dostoevsky Gogol Blok Bulgakov Sholokhov Rasputin Abramov and many others The Modern Russian Stage is the result of more than two decades of research as well as the author's professional experience working with the Russian director Yuri Liubimov in Moscow and London The book traces the transformation of literary works into the brilliant stagecraft that characterizes Russian theater It uses the perspective of theater performances to engage all the important movements of modern Russian culture including modernism socialist realism post modernism and the creative renaissance of the first decades since the Soviet regime's collapse

The Portable Theater Alan Louis Ackerman, 2002 In *The Portable Theater* Alan Ackerman investigates the crucial importance of theater in the works of Walt Whitman Herman Melville William Dean Howells Louisa May Alcott and Henry James Whether as drama critics playwrights amateur actors or simply as avid theatergoers each of these authors thought deeply about the theater and represented it in literature

Mickery Theater Mike Pearson, 2025-10-01 This is the first full length account of the history and working practices of Amsterdam's Mickery Theater Between 1965 and 1991 under its noted director Ritsaert ten Cate Mickery became renowned worldwide for promoting and presenting significant international alternative theatre companies including La Mama Tenjo Sajiki and the Wooster Group and for staging its own innovative productions Combining archival research oral history field observation and drawing on personal accounts of key participants the book illuminates the singular importance of Mickery while evoking the unique atmosphere of both the building and the art that it nurtured

Irving Berlin's American Musical Theater Jeffrey Magee, 2012-04-06 Irving Berlin's songs have been the soundtrack of America for a century but his most profound contribution to the nation is to Broadway Award winning music historian Jeffrey Magee's chronicle of Berlin's theatrical career is the first book to fully consider the songwriter's immeasurable influence on the Great White Way Tracing Berlin's humble beginnings on the lower east side to his rise to American icon *Irving Berlin's American Musical Theatre* will delight theater aficionados as well as students of music and popular culture and anyone interested in the story of a man whose life and work expressed so well the American dream

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