

# Drama and Theater Arts: A Guide to Selected Resources in The University Library System

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## ***1. Research Guides, Dictionaries, Encyclopedias and Directories***

The following research guides provide an overview of the many reference titles published over the years that are of potential use to those doing research in the performing arts. They are shelved in Hillman's reference collections on the ground floor.

Simons, Linda Keir. *The Performing Arts: A Guide to the Reference Literature*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1994 (REF Z6935 S56 1994)

Whalon, Marion K. *Performing Arts Research: A Guide to Information Sources*. Detroit: Gale, 1996. (REF Z6935 W5)

Bailey, Claudia Jean. *A Guide to Reference and Bibliography for Theatre Research*. Columbus: Ohio State University Libraries, 1971 (REF q Z5781 L87)

As for many other subjects, there is an abundance of specialized reference titles in the field of drama and theater arts. To locate dictionaries and encyclopedias in drama and theater arts available in the University Library System (The ULS), search PittCat by entering one of the following phrases as a Subject Heading search:

Examples:     DRAMA DICTIONARIES  
                  AMERICAN DRAMA DICTIONARIES  
                  THEATER DICTIONARIES  
                  THEATER UNITED STATES DICTIONARIES  
                  THEATER NEW YORK STATE NEW YORK DICTIONARIES  
                  ACTING DICTIONARIES  
                  COSTUME DICTIONARIES  
                  SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM, 1564-1616 DICTIONARIES

Should you not know the exact Library of Congress Subject Heading [LCSH], try searching the Keyword section by Subject.

The following dictionaries and encyclopedias, shelved in the reference collection or behind the information/reference desk, are among the more well-known reference titles in the field, providing definitions of dramatic and theatrical terms and/or entries on playwrights, directors, designers, actors, plays, genres and schools of drama, and national

dramas and theaters. Many entries are accompanied by useful bibliographies for further reading.

**Theater:**

- Trapido, Joel, ed. *An International Dictionary of Theatre Language*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1984 (REF PN2035 I5 1984)
- Hawkins-Dady, Mark, ed. *The International Dictionary of Theatre*. 3 Vols. Chicago: St. James Press, 1992-1996. (REF PN2000 I474 1992)
- Vol. 1 — *Plays*; Vol. 2 — *Playwrights*; Vol. 3 — *Actors, Directors, and Designers*.
- Rubin, Don, ed. *The World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre*. 6 vols. NY: Routledge, 1994- (REF PN1861 W67 1994)
- Vol. 1-*Europe*; Vol. 2-*The Americas*; Vol. 3-*Africa*; Vol. 4-*The Arab World*; Vol. 5-*Asia/Pacific*; Vol. 6-*Bibliography/Cumulative Index*.
- Hartnoll, Phyllis, and Peter Found, eds. *The Concise Oxford Companion to the Theatre*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. NY: Oxford UP, 1992 (REF PN2035 C63 1992)
- Cassell Companion to Theatre*. Rev. and updated ed. London: Cassell, 1997 (REF PN2035 B74 1997)
- D'Amico, Silvio, and Francesco Savio, eds. *Enciclopedia dello Spettacolo*. 9 vols. Roma: Maschere, 1954-62. (REF q PN2035 E56)
- Wilmeth, Don B., and Tice Miller, eds. *The Cambridge Guide to American Theatre*. NY: Cambridge UP, 1993. (REF PN220 C35 1993)
- Bordman, Gerald. *The Oxford Companion to American Theatre*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. NY: Oxford UP, 1992. (REF PN2220 B6 1992)
- Ganzl, Kurt. *The Encyclopedia of the Musical Theatre*. 2 vols. NY: Schirmer Books, 1994. (REF ML102 M88 G3 1994)

**Drama:**

- Hochman, Stanley, ed. *The McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of World Drama*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 5 vols. NY: McGraw-Hill, 1983.
- Gardner, John, and Edward Quinn, eds. *The Reader's Encyclopedia of World Drama*. NY: Crowell, 1969. (REF PN1625 G3)
- Dictionary of Literary Biography*. Detroit: Gale, 1978- (REF Z5051 D5: multiple volumes)
- Ancient Greek Authors*
- Elizabethan Dramatists*
- Jacobean and Caroline Dramatists*
- Restoration and Eighteenth Century Dramatists*
- French Dramatists, 1789-1914*

--*Twentieth Century German Dramatists, 1889-1918*

--*Twentieth Century German Dramatists, 1919-1992*

--*Twentieth Century American Dramatists*

--*Modern British Dramatists, 1900-1945*

--*British Dramatists Since World War II*

*Contemporary Dramatists*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Detroit: St. James Press, 1999. (REF PR737 C57 1999: kept behind the information desk)

Contains information on English-language playwrights only.

Magill, Frank, ed. *Critical Survey of Drama*. 7 vols. Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, 1994. (REF PR623 C75 1994)

Critical essays on English-language playwrights, plus survey essays on topics such as medieval drama.

To expand your search for entries in reference books on a particular playwright or theater personality, try consulting the following biographical dictionary index:

McNeil, Barbara. *Performing Arts Biography Master Index*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Detroit: Gale, 1982. (REF q PN1583 M37 1982)

The source indexes over 270,000 biographical entries on individuals living and dead that appears in over 100 biographical dictionaries of the performing arts. Check PittCat to determine whether the ULS has copies of specific dictionaries.

For more biographical information, there are also a number of general biographical sources such as *Current Biography* (for twentieth-century figures) and *Biography Index* (index carrel 4, reference area), which provides citations to books, essays and articles about prominent individuals in a number of fields, including the performing arts.

To locate theater directories available in the ULS, consult PittCat by entering an appropriate Library of Congress subject heading:

Examples: THEATRE DIRECTORIES  
THEATER UNITED STATES DIRECTORIES  
THEATER GREAT BRITAIN DIRECTORIES

## ***2. Circulating Books in The University Library System***

To find books in the ULS on drama or theater history generally, search PittCat using the following phrases as a Subject Heading search:

DRAMA HISTORY AND CRITICISM  
THEATER HISTORY

To locate book on the drama or theater history of a particular nation or city, enter a more specific heading:

Examples: GERMANY DRAMA HISTORY AND CRITICISM  
THEATER FRANCE HISTORY  
THEATER ENGLAND LONDON HISTORY  
THEATER PENNSYLVANIA PITTSBURGH HISTORY

To find books in the ULS on a specific topic in drama or in theater history or production, search PittCat using the following phrases as a Subject Heading search:

Examples	MELODRAMA	ACTING
	TRAGEDY	MIME
	GREEK DRAMA TRAGEDY	STAGE FIGHTING
	MUSICALS	COSTUME DESIGN
	PUPPET THEATER	THEATRICAL MAKEUP

To identify books on theaters, their history, design, construction, use, etc., available in the ULS, search PittCat using the Subject Heading search with the following phrases (or the Keyword search by Subject, if you do not know the exact Library of Congress Subject Heading):

Examples: THEATERS  
THEATERS UNITED STATES  
THEATERS FRANCE PARIS HISTORY  
THEATER ARCHITECTURE  
THEATERS DESIGNS AND PLANS  
THEATERS LIGHTING  
THEATERS SOUND EFFECTS  
THEATERS STAGE SETTING AND SCENERY

If you would like to determine what works (plays, essay collections, autobiographies, memoirs) by a particular playwright, director, actor, producer, etc., are in the ULS, search PittCat by author:

Examples: WILSON, AUGUST  
WASSERSTEIN, WENDY  
PRINCE, HAL  
HAYES, HELEN

If you want to find books about a particular playwright, director, actor, producer, etc., in the ULS, search the name in PittCat as a subject:

Examples BEHN, APHRA  
WEISS, PETER  
BROOK, PETER

## ROBESON, PAUL

Criticism of a particular playwright's work will also be found under the subdivision CRITICISM AND INTERPRETATION following his or her name entered as a subject heading:

Examples: EURIPIDES CRITICISM AND INTERPRETATION  
SHEPARD, SAM CRITICISM AND INTERPRETATION  
CHURCHILL, CARYL CRITICISM AND INTERPRETATION

### ***3. Bibliographies Devoted to Specific Individuals or Topics***

Bibliographies can be great time-savers in providing you with a list of materials on the subject you are investigating. When using bibliographies, though, remember that the materials cited in a bibliography will only be as recent as the bibliography's date of publication. In the case of older bibliographies, you'll most likely want to supplement them by searching PittCat and consulting recent years of specific indexes to identify more recent materials on your topic.

To locate any bibliographies on drama or theater arts generally in the ULS, enter the following in a Subject Heading search in PittCat:

DRAMA BIBLIOGRAPHY  
THEATER BIBLIOGRAPHY

You will most likely want to consult the following annual bibliographies and index databases for citations to material on your topic:

*MLA International Bibliography*. NY: MLA, 1922- (Index carrel3, reference area)

Produced by the Modern Language Association of America, this is the standard annual bibliography consulted by those researching topics in languages and literatures, including the three areas of fiction, poetry and drama. Volume 1 and 2 of the annual classified listings (a single physical volume) arrange citations by national literature and period, and then alphabetically by author, poet, or playwright. If you are looking for citations to materials on the work of a particular playwright or on a particular topic, you may find it easier to consult the subject index volume for that year. Volume 4 of the annual classified listings volume has general sections devoted to "dramatic arts," including theater; "genres," including drama, and "literary forms," including comedy, tragedy, and satire. Depending on what you are researching, you may find some citations to potentially useful information there.

Note that you can search the SilverPlatter electronic version of the entire bibliography back to 1963 via the library's Web site. To gain access to this site, get onto the Web via Pitt's network. Call up the library's homepage at <http://www.library.pitt.edu>; then click on "Indexes to Articles and Publications" in the blue square in the top left corner. The *MLA International Bibliography* will

appear listed alphabetically among the other indexes and electronic resources on the screen.

*International Bibliography of Theatre*. NY: Theatre Research Data Center, Brooklyn College, CUNY, 1985- (REF Z5783 I57)

Also international in scope, this bibliography lists books, articles, dissertations and other materials on theatrical performance. Note that reviews of performances are excluded, as are materials that are largely literary studies. The classified arrangement at the front has 9 major divisions: general, dance, dance-drama, drama, media, mime, mixed entertainment, music-drama, and puppetry. These divisions are further subdivided by type or genre. You may prefer to use the subject index at the back to locate citations to materials on your topic.

*International Index to Performing Arts*. Alexandria, VA: Chadwyck Healey, 1997-

*IIPA* provides citations and abstracts for the contents of more than 130 international periodicals in drama and theater (including stagecraft, mime and puppetry), comedy, film, dance, storytelling, and magic. Also indexed are performing arts feature articles and reviews as well as obituaries of performing arts figures published in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Coverage extends back several decades and will increase as the database adds indexing for more periodical titles and more back issues over time.

In addition to the sources noted above, you may want to consult *the Humanities Index* (Index carrel 10, reference area), which provides citations to articles in a select number of humanities journals, including journals of drama and the theater. See the headings and subdivisions listed under "Drama" and "Theater" to get an idea of the kinds of topics covered. Electronic access to recent years of the *Humanities Index* is available on *Web of Science* through the ULS homepage.

Although the *British Humanities Index* (Index carrel 10, reference area) does not provide citations to theater reviews, it does include citations to a large number of articles on the theater, particularly in Great Britain or from a British perspective. Among the newspapers, journals and literary reviews indexed are *Theatre Research International* and *Times Literary Supplement (TLS)*.

The Following indexes may be helpful in identifying criticism written about American and European drama during earlier years of the twentieth century:

Palmer, Helen H., comp. *American Drama Criticism: Interpretations, 1890-1965 Inclusive, or American Drama Since the First Play Produced in America*. Hamden, CT: Shoestring Press, 1967. Supplements. (REF Z1231 D7 P17)

Palmer, Helen H., comp. *European Drama Criticism, 1900-1975*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Hamden, CT: Shoestring Press, 1977. (REF Z5781 P7)

*Bulletin of Bibliography and Dramatic Index*. Boston: Faxon, 1912-1953. (REF Z1007 B94)

## 5. *Indexes to Play Editions and Plays in Collections*

The following may help you identify and edition of a play or a play in a collection that you need to read for your research or an assignment. Check PittCat to determine if the ULS has a copy of the edition or collection.

*Play Index*. NY: H.W. Wilson, 1949- (REF Z5781 P7; kept behind the information desk)

This irregular author, title and subject index lists selected English-language plays and plays in English. Currently the only index that lists plays by subject, although some of the subject headings are so broad that they aren't particularly helpful.

*Ottmiller's Index to Plays in Collections: An Author and Title Index to Plays Appearing in Collections Published Between 1900 and 1985*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1988 (REF Z5781 O8 1988)

The subtitle describes the scope of this index, which treats 6,548 plays in many languages included in 1,350 collections, most of which were published in the U.S. or England. The index uses a system of symbols to key the plays to the collections in which they are published.

## 6. *Reviews of Plays*

Consult the following indexes to locate citations to reviews of plays in performance for the years and areas indicated:

Salem, James M. *A Guide to Critical Reviews*. 3 parts. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1973-1979. (REF Z5782 S342)

Part 1: *American Drama, 1909-1969* (A later edition covering 1909-1982 is available behind the reference desk)

Part 2: *The Musical, 1909-1974*

Part 3: *Foreign Drama, 1909-1977*

For reviews of performances in recent years, consult general indexes like The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature (index carrel 7; reference area), or electronic databases like *The National Newspaper Index*, *Expanded Academic ASAP*, *Academic Universe*, or *Academic Search Elite*, all available through the ULS homepage.

The following two series, shelved in Hillman's Reference Collection, provide reproductions of the full texts of actual reviews of productions in New York as well as in other cities:

*The New York Theatre Critics' Reviews*. NY: Critics' Reviews, 1940- (REF f Ps351 C934)

Provides the texts of reviews in chronological order as they appeared in New York papers such as the *Daily News*, the *Sun*, the *Herald Tribune*, and the *Times*, and as they were aired on stations and networks such as WABC-TV and CBS.

*The New York Times Theater Reviews*. NY: The New York Times and Arno Press, 1975- [Covers 1870-1990](REF q PN1581 N38)

Provides the texts of reviews in chronological order as they appeared in *The New York Times* from 1870 through 1990.

### **7. Monologues for Performance**

To locate collections of monologues in the ULS, simply look under the subject heading, MONOLOGUES. You may want to consult the following reference books first, though, for ideas for monologues you might want to consider for an acting assignment:

Hooks, Ed. *The Ultimate Scene and Monologue Sourcebook: An Actor's Guide to Over 1,000 Monologues and Scenes from More Than 300 Contemporary Plays*. NY: Back Stage Books, 1994 (REF Z5784 A27 H66 1994)

This source provides play summaries and analyses and describes male and female monologues: male/male, male/female, and female/female scenes; and three-person scenes you may want to consider for an assignment.

Emerson, Robert, and Jane Grumbach, eds. *Guide to Monologues, Men: An Index of Over 800 Monologues from Classical and Modern Plays*. NY: Drama Book Publishers, 1988 (REF PN2080 G84 1988)

---. *Guide to Monologues, Women: An Index of Over 800 Monologues from Classical and Modern Plays*. NY: Drama Book Publishers, 1988 (REF PN2080 G85 1988)

Not also that the Curtis Theatre Collection (see the description below) includes an extensive collection of contemporary playscripts published by Samuel French and Dramatist's Play Service, among others, that you may want to browse for an acting assignment. Records for them appear in PittCat.

### **8. The Ford and Harriet Curtis Theater Collection**

Founded in 1960 and housed in 363 Hillman, this collection emphasizes theater in New York and in Pittsburgh from the Civil War to the present. Its holdings include over 5,000 volumes of playscripts, acting editions, histories, and critical works on drama; over 500,000 theater programs; journal relating to drama; reference works; reviews; articles; posters; 13,000 photographs; miscellaneous data on contemporary theater; material on off-Broadway productions; archival records of theater organizations; and the papers of individuals connected with the theater.