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# Living Theatre: A History Of Theatre



## Synopsis

Living Theatre: History of Theatre conveys the excitement and variety of theatre throughout time, as well as the dynamic ways in which our interpretation of theatre history is informed by contemporary scholarship. This edition opens with, "Theatre: Its Origins and Its History", which establishes a contemporary context for the study of theatre. Biographical sketches in each chapter bring theatre history to life through the stories of the people who lived that history. Developments in theatre are examined through the debates between scholars and historians, emphasizing the living nature of this vibrant history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ed Wilson attended Vanderbilt, the University of Edinburgh, and Yale University where he received the first Doctor of Fine Arts degree awarded by Yale. He has taught at Vanderbilt, Yale, Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Most recently he has been Executive Director of the Segal Theatre Center at the CUNY Graduate Center. He is the author or co-author of three of the most widely used college theater textbooks in the U. S. The tenth edition of his pioneer book, *The Theater Experience* was published in 2006 by McGraw-Hill. The sixth edition of his text *Theater: The Lively Art* (co-authored with Alvin Goldfarb) will be published by McGraw Hill in the December, 2006. The fourth edition of his theater history, *Living Theatre: Histories of Theatre*, (also co-authored with Alvin Goldfarb) will be published in December, 2006. He is also the editor of *Shaw on Shakespeare*, recently re-issued by Applause Books. He has produced plays on and off Broadway and served one season as the resident director of the Barter Theatre in

Abingdon, Virginia. He also produced a feature film, *The Nashville Sound*, recently made available on DVD. He is the author of two original plays, a farce, *The Bettinger Prize*, and a play about Ponce de Leon, *Waterfall*. He wrote the book and lyrics for a musical version of *Great Expectations*. All three have been given a series of successful readings in New York City and elsewhere. *Great Expectations* was given a full production for three weeks in February and March, 2006, at the Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, Virginia. He conceived the idea of a musical revue of the songs of Jerome Kern which had a well-received try-out production in the fall of 2004 at Catholic University in Washington, D. C. Ed has served a number of times on the Tony Nominating Committee and the Pulitzer Prize Drama Jury, most recently on the Pulitzer Jury in 2003. For twenty two years he was the theater critic of the *Wall Street Journal*. A long time member of the New York Drama Critics Circle, he was president of the Circle for several years. He is on the board of the John Golden Fund and was also for many years on the Board of the Theater Development Fund, of which he served as President. Alvin Goldfarb is President and Professor of Theatre at Western Illinois University. Dr. Goldfarb also served as vice president and provost, dean of Fine Arts, and chair of Theatre at Illinois State University. Dr. Goldfarb holds a Ph.D. in theater history from the City University of New York and a master's degree from Hunter College. He is the coauthor of *Living Theatre: A History* and coeditor of *The Anthology of Living Theater* with Edwin Wilson. Dr. Goldfarb is also the coeditor, with Rebecca Rovit, of *Theatrical Performance during the Holocaust: Texts, Documents, Memoirs*, which was a National Jewish Book Award finalist. He has published numerous articles and reviews in scholarly journals and anthologies. Dr. Goldfarb served as a member of the Illinois Arts Council and president of the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education. He has received service awards from the latter organization as well as from the American College Theater Festival. Dr. Goldfarb also received an Alumni Achievement Award from the City University of New York Graduate Center's Alumni Association.

I was required to get this book for my theatre history class. It is very well balanced and they divide the different parts of theatre history very well. It was a good companion. That being said, it is the exact same information as the previous edition (my professor even admitted it in class, then skirted around our questions of why he required the newest edition). If you buy the older edition for class, be aware the chapter numbers are one off of the new edition. Hope this helps!

This book addresses quite well all the different historical views without losing content. I used this for two semesters of theatre history and am very glad to have had this book. I am much more informed

and was able to really take a lot of information without feeling bored out of my mind, or angry at the lack of attention to contributions by anyone other than old, white guys. I would use this over other theatre history books. As with all textbooks, it's unfortunately high priced, but as I'll be keeping this, and used it for more than one semester, I am pleased overall with this purchase.

I got this book for my history of design class and it is a very good read and its well organized and the book arrived in great conditions. But it took the seller about a week to deliver it to me. They did give me a heads up and apologized for the delayed delivery but still took way too long. But the book is great so just order a bit in advance or be patient :)

Very poorly edited; Clearly the sections are written by different individuals and consequently you read the same information three or four times in one chapter. I'm a little resentful that I was required to purchase such an expensive book for class and that the editors did not spend more time streamlining the information.

"Living Theatre: A History" provides a comprehensive and well-written history of world theatre with the majority of the chapters devoted to individuals and their accomplishments. I ordered this text for a university level History of Theatre class, and I am very satisfied. Although this is an older edition, there are only slight variations from the new ones, so if you are interested in saving a few dollars, with this, you should be quite all right.

Another book perfect shape

I purchased this book. However, when it came in the mail, I received the fourth edition which was not compatible with my class.

Had to buy the book for a class. Good price, arrived on time.

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