

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page x</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xi</i>
Introduction	I
1 Waiting in the wings: female characters in Italian Renaissance comedy	6
Setting the scene	10
Plotting the trick	22
Addressing the audience	41
2 Gender deceptions: cross-dressing in Italian Renaissance comedy	49
Performance and spectatorship	57
Fetishism and commodification	69
3 Artful women: morality and materialism in Goldoni	88
Angel in the house	94
Artful women	110
4 Masterful men: difference and fantasy in D'Annunzio	121
Difference as dominance	126
Fantastic femininity	141
5 Patriarchs and prodigals: the generation gap in Pirandello	162
Patriarchs and prodigals	171
Three-generational plays	183
Women and age	189
6 Centre stage: Franca Rame's female parts	203
Female subjects	207
Performance politics	231
<i>Notes</i>	243
<i>Bibliography</i>	256
<i>Subject index</i>	263
<i>Name and text index</i>	271