

Contents

Rita Felski Introduction 1

Defining Tragedy

- George Steiner "Tragedy," Reconsidered 29
Simon Goldhill Generalizing About Tragedy 45
Wai Chee Dimock After Troy: Homer, Euripides, Total War 66
Kathleen M. Sands Tragedy, Theology, and Feminism
in the Time After Time 82
Joshua Foa Dienstag Tragedy, Pessimism, Nietzsche 104

Rethinking the History of Tragedy

- Page duBois Toppling the Hero: Polyphony in the Tragic City 127
Martha C. Nussbaum The "Morality of Pity":
Sophocles' *Philoctetes* 148
Simon Critchley I Want to Die, I Hate My Life—
Phaedra's Malaise 170

Tragedy and Modernity

- David Scott Tragedy's Time: Postemancipation Futures
Past and Present 199
Stanley Corngold Sebald's Tragedy 218
Olga Taxidou Machines and Models for Modern Tragedy:
Brecht/Berlau, *Antigone-Model 1948* 241
Timothy J. Reiss Transforming Politics and Selves:
Greek Antiquity, West African Modernity 263

Contents

Tragedy, Film, Popular Culture

Elisabeth Bronfen *Femme Fatale—Negotiations of Tragic Desire* 287

Heather K. Love *Spectacular Failure:
The Figure of the Lesbian in *Mulholland Drive** 302

Michel Maffesoli *The Return of the Tragic
in Postmodern Societies* 319

Terry Eagleton *Commentary* 337

Notes on Contributors 347

Index 351