Contents

Acknowledgements		vii
In	troduction: Dramatising Britain – Nation, Fantasy	
an	d the London Stage, 1719–1745	1
	Historicising identities and staging the nation's histories	5
	Instability and fantasy: the politics of theatre	9
	Prohibiting the nation's commentator	12
1	Ancient Britons and Liberty	18
	The nation's ancient liberty	22
	National identity	33
	Parliament as the protector of liberty	42
2	Kings, Ministers and Favourites: the National	
	Myth in Peril	48
	Favouritism and patriotism	50
	The favourite and the sovereign	56
	Representations of Walpole in The Fall of Mortimer (1731)	
	and The Fall of the Earl of Essex (1731)	65
	The fall of the favourite	76
3	Shakespeare, the National Scaffold	78
	Jacobite incursions and dramatic interventions	81
	Homogenising a nation of difference	87
	Patriot women, validating the myth	91
	Shakespearean patriot heroines as idealised Britons	104
4	Britain, Empire and Julius Caesar	108
	Julius Caesar rewritten	112
	Caesar and the patriot fantasy	119
	Rewriting patriotism: a model for British colonialism?	129
	Protestant Britain: validating colonial fantasy	135

vi Contents

Turks, Christians and Imperial Fantasy	
Rewriting the demon Turk	145
Liberty and consent	152
How to govern an empire: Briton turn'd Turk?	158
Turk turn'd Christian: authorising Protestant colonialis	m 167
Penitent Turks/libidinous Christians	173
Conclusion: History, Fantasy and the Staging of Britishness	
Histories of Britishness	182
Staging Britishness	184
Modern fantasies	187
Notes	
Bibliography	
Index	

-