

Contents

List of illustrations	<i>page</i> vii
Chronology	ix
Acknowledgment	xvii
Introduction	I
1 Dreams and responsibilities: 1891–1904	8
2 Possible forms: the early plays	20
3 Difficult, irrelevant words: W. B. Yeats and J. M. Synge	33
4 An art of common things: 1905–1910	60
5 A painted stage: 1911–1929	79
6 Plays and controversies: Sean O’Casey	96
7 The mill of the mind: Denis Johnston	114
8 The plays, the players and the scenes: 1930–1955	131
9 Explorations 1956–1982	158
10 The honour of naming: Samuel Beckett and Brian Friel	188
Notes	213
Select bibliography	225
Index	241