Contents

Preface, vii

Prologue, 1

- 1 The Curtain Rises...and Falls, 7
- 2 The Curtain Rises Again, 28
- 3 Enter the American Playwright, 39
- 4 The Setting and the Action, 1800–1850, 56
- 5 Enter the American Actor, 80

| 6 | Melodrama Takes Center Stage, 104 American Playwriting, 1800-1850 |
|----|--|
| 7 | The Setting at Mid-Century, 129 The United States and its Theatre in 1850 |
| 8 | The Golden Age of American Acting, 144 |
| 9 | The Popular Theatre Grows Up— and Captivates the Crowd, 181 |
| 10 | Melodrama Continues to Star—with a Rival in the Wings, 201 American Playwriting, 1850–1890 |
| 11 | Realism Begins to Upstage Melodrama, 223 American Playwriting at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century |
| 12 | The Lively Scene at the Close of the Nineteenth Century, 241 |
| 13 | The Lively Scene in Acting, 260 |
| 14 | Attending the Theatre in 1902, 287 |
| 15 | The Theatrical Renaissance of the Twentieth Century, 297 |
| 16 | The New Playwriting, 324 |
| 17 | Enter the Motion Picture, 346 |
| 18 | Triumph and Tragedy, Comedy and Failure, 370 Developments, 1920-1940 |
| 19 | Playwriting Between Two World Wars, 410 |
| 20 | Bright Lights, Then Curtain, 433 Developments, 1940-1960 |
| 21 | The Phoenix in Flames, 469 Developments of the 1960s |
| | Selected Bibliography, 508 |
| | Index, 516 |