THEATRE AUDIENCES

A theory of production and reception

Second edition

Susan Bennett



London and New York

CONTENTS

	Preface to the new edition Acknowledgements	vii xi
1	INTRODUCTION Historical approaches Contemporary concerns	1 2 9
2	THEORIES OF READING AND VIEWING Starting with Brecht Reader-response theory Other approaches to the reader Semiotics and post-structuralism in theatre and film studies	20 21 34 55 67
3	THE AUDIENCE AND THEATRE Culture and the idea of the theatrical event Selection: the relationship between production and reception On the threshold of theatre Performance Post-performance	86 86 106 125 139 163
4	SPECTATORSHIP ACROSS CULTURE Fascination and obsession Translation and meaning Intercultural exchange Reviewing spectatorship	166 166 191 196 201
5	CONCLUSION	204
	Appendix Notes Bibliography Index	214 216 223 241