Modern Critical Views

JOHN IRVING

Edited and with an introduction by Harold Bloom Sterling Professor of the Humanities Yale University

CHELSEA HOUSE PUBLISHERS Philadelphia

Contents

ľ,

Editor's Note vii

Introduction 1 Harold Bloom

Garp: Death in the Family 3 Greil Marcus

Domesticated Madness 11 Benjamin DeMott

Structure in the Worlds of John Irving 19 Michael Priestly

Reservations 33 Robert Towers

Why-Is John Irving So Popular? 39 Joseph Epstein

The Good Wrestler 49 Gabriel Miller

John Irving's Aesthetics of Accessibility 65 Jane Bowers Hill

The Postmodern Novel: The Example of John Irving's *The World According to Garp* 73 *Raymond J. Wilson III*

CONTENTS

ŝ,

The Family Romances of John Irving 87 Debra Shostak

Hero Worship and Hermeneutic Dialectics: John Irving's A Prayer for Owen Meany 105 Philip Page

Saints, Sinners and the Dickensian Novel: The Ethics of Storytelling in John Irving's *The Cider House Rules* 121 *Todd F. Davis and Kenneth Womack*

·. 、

Chronology 139

Contributors 141

Bibliography 143

Acknowledgments 145

Index 147