



Staging Memory and Materiality in Eighteenth-Century Theatrical Biography

By Amanda Weldy Boyd

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An introduction to theatrical biography as an immensely popular genre in eighteenth-century England.

“Staging Memory and Materiality in Eighteenth-Century Theatrical Biography” examines theatrical biography as a developing genre in eighteenth-century England. Drawing heavily on primary sources, then-contemporary reviews and archival material in the form of extra-illustrated or “scrapbooked” copies, this text investigates the increasing emphasis on materiality which was designed to consolidate, but often challenged, the biographer’s authority.

Readership

This book’s primary audience is the academic, research and advanced postgraduate markets, most notably the scholars who identify “celebrity/performance studies” or theater history as an area of focus. More generally, this book is of interest to scholars working on book history and material culture, as well as those interested in life writing or biographical studies.

Contents

Introduction: Competition and Legitimacy; Chapter One: “Davies’ Name...In Fame’s Brightest Page Shall on Garrick Attend”: From Anonymous to Personalized Participation in the Life of David Garrick; Chapter Two: His Work, My Words: Three Posthumous Lives of Charles Macklin, Comedian; Chapter Three: Epistolary Resurrections: James Boaden and the Rise of the Professional Thespian Biographer; Epilogue: The Limits of Materially Bound Permanence; Index.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Amanda Weldy Boyd, an adjunct associate professor of English at Hope International University, received her PhD from University of Southern California and her undergraduate degree from University of California, Los Angeles. She specializes in eighteenth-century theatre history, teaching courses in drama as well as literature.

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