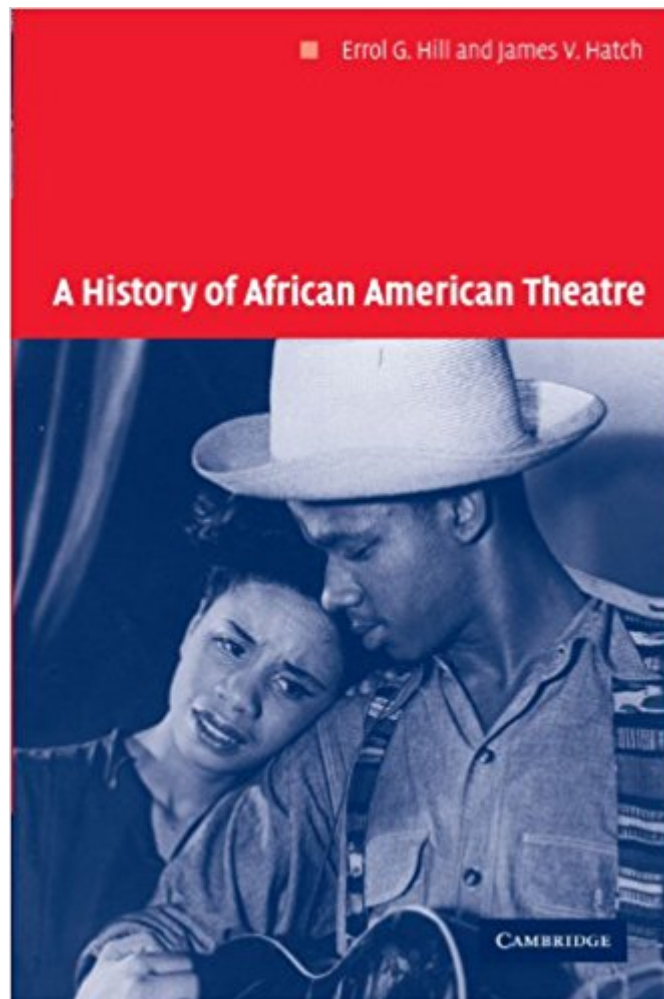


The book was found

A History Of African American Theatre (Cambridge Studies In American Theatre And Drama)



Synopsis

This definitive history of African-American theatre embraces companies from across the U.S., as well as the anglophone Caribbean and African-American companies touring Europe, Australia and Africa. Representing a catholicity of styles, from African ritual to European forms, amateur to professional, and political nationalism to integration, the volume covers all aspects of performance. It includes minstrel, vaudeville, and cabaret acts, as well as shows written by whites that used black casts.

Book Information

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American Literature

Customer Reviews

Many of us take for granted the ability to go out on the town and enjoy a play about African Americans. Such plays as *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Dream Girls*, and *The Piano Lesson* have found their way into the hearts of many a theater goer and into the cultural makeup of this country. However, the making of these plays would not have been possible if not for the struggle and sacrifices of many theatrical pioneers. *A History of African American Theatre* by Errol G. Hill and James V. Hatch is an extensive anthology of all types of African American theatre that gives a wonderful historical perspective that we can use to interpret some of what we see today. The book includes information on minstrels, vaudeville, cabaret acts, musicals, and opera. It's the complete historical reference for the African American theatre lover. In truth, this book also was exciting to some of my friends who are more history buffs than theatre lovers. I also confess to being very impressed with the author,

Mr. Hill, who was the foremost historical scholar in the African American and Caribbean theatre fields and produced and directed more than 120 plays and pageants during a life recently cut short by cancer. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting him, he clearly was a giant! The book's appeal - like the book itself - has great breadth & depth. --- Sheldon Dennis, VP - Family Digest Magazine

If you are interested in African American Theatre, you must read this book. It chronicles the beginning and the traditions that have evolved from early African American experiences in spite of the obstacles faced by performers.

Hill and Hatch should be very proud of the scholarship that they have in this book. The reader will get a very comprehensive view of African American/Black theatre from slavery forward. It also provides great connections (in depth biographies) on earlier mentioned proprietors of theater and actors that are mentioned in elsewhere in the text. With the text not only are you able to see the history of theater through the lens of the African American experience, but you are also able to see some similar troubles and business cycles of the companies. I also was elated to see the comprising of a Black aesthetic in regards to theater; theater themes that are unique to this experience. My only critique is that I wish they would have spent more time on the eleven survival strategies. This would have made the book instrumental in creating a theater that would survive. They could have sought out those that were doing this and which had the most of the strategies.

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