



Drama + Theory: Critical Approaches

By Professor Peter Buse

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY PRESS, United Kingdom, 2002.

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*****.Energetically places modern British drama and contemporary critical and cultural theory in dialogue, demonstrating how theory allows fresh insights into familiar plays. Each chapter pairs a well-known play from the post-war period with a classic theory text, the theoretical text is not simply applied to the dramatic one: instead, the play and the theoretical text reflect on each other in a mutual illumination. Examples include: So Look Back in Anger is read by and reads Lacan s Signification of the Phallus Pinter s The Homecoming is made uncanny with Freud Stoppard s Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead finds affinities with Lyotard s The Postmodern Condition Timberlake Wertenbaker s Our Country s Good agrees and disagrees with Edward Said Sarah Kane s Blasted thinks through trauma with Shoshana Felman. In each case, the theoretical position is explained lucidly and economically. The result is a series of new interpretations not only of the plays, but of the theoretical texts, which take on new relevance when linked with modern British drama. The first textbook of its kind, linking contemporary...



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