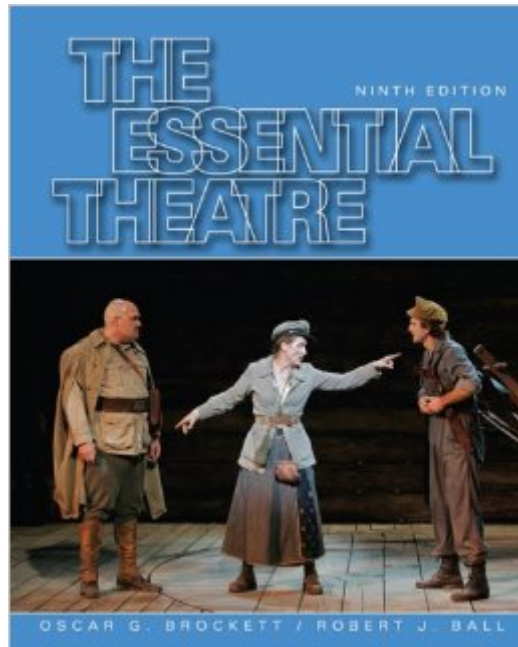


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# The Essential Theatre



## Synopsis

This text is a welcome and helpful resource whether you are a major looking forward to a career in the theatre, or a nonmajor interested in an overview to help you better appreciate theatre as an audience member. Written by highly respected theatre historians, THE ESSENTIAL THEATRE has established a reputation as one of the most comprehensive, authoritative surveys of the theatre in colleges nationwide. Its vibrant treatment of theatre practice-past and present-range from the origins of theatre to postmodernism and performance art. Chapter after chapter, this book will encourage you and get you excited about becoming an active theatergoer, while providing the insight and understanding that will enrich your theatre experience throughout your life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you have a Theater degree from any American college in the last decade, then you already own this book. This is the definitive text on Theater History. Brockett is the authority. No other comprehensive book on "general" theater history comes close. If you want the book that is on every theater historian's shelf, referenced in every Theater thesis or dissertation, and the text for every Theater History course in the nation, then order this.

I bought the last edition of The Essential Theatre (7th) for a class. It was easy to read and covered just about everything one could hope for in an introductory text. Now I'm a graduate student studying theatre. I bought the new edition to review the material I had a few years ago and was

surprised to find a number of exciting new features including greater use of the internet to expand on subjects covered in the text. This book was very good before but with so many new features and the same authoritative coverage it's a pure joy and "essential" reading for anyone who truly cares about the Theatre.

Bought this book for a college class. I have found it to be very interesting and inspiring. It has helped me understand a lot of the things we see around today. I suppose that nothing is new under the sun!!

To turn the art of acting into a science, this book does a pretty good job! I honestly think it's quite ridiculous to turn something that is such a subjective art form into a textbook to "learn" from, but it doesn't approach acting specifically in that way. I had to use this book for an Intro to Theatre class and was not excited at all to tell the truth, but it presents you with a history of theatre as well as some names/ plays of note and what theatre has come to today and what the specific roles within it are. I don't believe I would read this for fun, but it does do a very good job of giving you a more intricate look at the evolution of theatre and how it came to its current state.

I never understood theatre until I read this book for class. Now, I love it and attend theatre productions often. To quote its authors, it "introduces and discusses several basic issues related to the nature of theatre, to the role of audiences, to varied criteria for judging performances, and to dramatic structure, form, and style. It addresses the basic characteristics of theatre as entertainment and as an art form. It examines approaches to evaluating performances and analyzes the ways plays are written and structured. It explores some of the different ways in which the theatrical experience has varied in the past and the way it continues to change in the present. It discusses how each of the theatre arts functions today and how all are combined to create the performances we see in the theatre." It gives you a wonderful foundation to build upon should you choose to continue to further your understanding and appreciation of the theatre.

My Introduction to theatre class requires me to buy this book. Came in a good condition. Inside it, there are a lot information and pictures that make the textbook less boring. If you are into theatre , this book is definitely worth a read !

This book was awesome. I thought it was really useful that my teacher only made us open it once.

Probably couldn't pass the class without looking at that one paragraph.

Needed it for class. Boring. Good value. Simple concepts are stretched across an entire book. I'm impressed.

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