



# Theatre and Audience

*By Helen Freshwater*

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**Theatre and Audience** By Helen Freshwater

What does theatre do for – and to – those who witness, watch, and participate in it?

*Theatre & Audience* provides a provocative overview of the questions raised by theatrical encounters between performers and audiences. Focusing on European and North American theatre and its audiences in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, it explores belief in theatre's potential to influence, impact and transform. Illustrated by examples of performance which have sought to generate active audience involvement – from Brecht's epic theatre to the Blue Man Group – it seeks to unsettle any simple equation between audience participation and empowerment.

Foreword by Lois Weaver

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## **Theatre and Audience** By Helen Freshwater Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Review

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- Guardian Theatre Blog, September 2009,  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/theatreblog/2009/sep/10/theatre-critics-academics-artists>

**'A thoroughly engaging read'**

**- Susan Bennett, University Professor, Department of English, University of Calgary, Canada**

**'This book is about us. It documents our presence, articulates our position and questions our experience as casual on-lookers, silent witnesses, engaged spectators, willing participants, in this glorious activity called audience. See for yourself.' - Lois Weaver**

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## ***International***

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From the Back Cover

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