

## Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page viii
Introduction. The critical stage	i
1. "Equal to ourselves": John Dryden's national literary history	15
2. Staging criticism, staging Milton: John Dryden's <i>The State of Innocence</i>	42
3. Imitating Shakespeare: gender and criticism	64
4. The female playwright and the city lady	91
5. Scandals of a female nature	116
<i>Notes</i>	140
<i>Bibliography</i>	163
<i>Index</i>	173