

# Contents

## ***One: The Beginnings to Shakespeare***

- Introductory: The Classical Heritage 1
- The Growth of Native Drama: Tropes and Liturgical Plays 4
- Mysteries and Miracles 8
- The Development of Professional Drama: Moralities  
and Interludes 22
- Comedy, Tragedy and Tragicomedy 38

## ***Two: The Elizabethan Drama***

- The Theatres 48
- Shakespeare's Immediate Forerunners 52
- The Arrival of Shakespeare 57
- The Final Achievements of Elizabethan Drama 65

## ***Three: The Jacobean and Caroline Drama***

- Audiences and Theatres 71
- Satirical and Citizen Comedy 73
- The Flourishing of Tragedy 78
- The Cult of Tragicomedy and Social Comedy 91
- Cavalier Spectators and their Tastes 96

## ***Four: Restoration Drama***

- Drama under the Puritans 103
- The Restoration Theatre 105
- Love and Honour Drama 108
- The Return to Shakespeare 113
- Opera and Spectacle 116
- Comedies of Humours and of Intrigue 118
- The Comedy of Manners 122

**Five: Drama in the Eighteenth Century**

- The Changing Playhouse World 128
- Pseudo-classic and Pathetic Tragedy 130
- The Ballad-Opera and Pantomime 134
- The Growth of Sentimentalism 141
- Comedy's Temporary Revival 148
- The Domestic Drama 154

**Six: Drama in the Nineteenth Century**

- Decay and Change 158
- Poetic Plays 163
- Melodrama, Farces and Extravaganzas 173
- The Dramatic Revival 182

**Seven: Drama in the Twentieth Century**

- Edwardian 194
- First Interval 215
- Between the Wars 221
- Second Interval 245
- After the War 247
- Towards Rebellion 253
- Rebellion and After 258
- Into the Future 264
- A Play Tonight 278

**Bibliography**

- Play-lists and General Reference Books 281
- The Middle Ages and Early Tudor Period 282
- The Elizabethan, Jacobean, and Caroline Periods 282
- The Restoration Period 285
- The Eighteenth Century 285
- The Nineteenth Century 286
- The Twentieth Century 287

**Index 289**