

# Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage

## NTQ Book Reviews

edited by Viv Gardner

### Theatre History to 1900

Marianne McDonald  
**Ancient Sun, Modern Light:  
Greek Drama on the Modern Stage**  
New York: Columbia University Press, 1992.  
239 p.  
ISBN 0-231-07654-1.

The title is slightly misleading, in that this book deals with free adaptations of Greek tragedy rather than orthodox productions. McDonald examines work by Suzuki Tadashi, Peter Sellars, Tony Harrison (*Trackers and Medea*), Theodoros Terzopoulos (directing Muller), and Thomas Murphy. Interviews with Harrison and Murphy and talks by Sellars and Terzopoulos are incorporated as chapters. McDonald's thesis is that 'Our past has shaped our present, and our present reshapes our past. Modern reworkings of ancient drama help inform the present' (p. 201). After reading this book, I was more informed about the present than about the past refracted through the present. For my taste, the book is too eclectic in its methodology, and focuses too much upon the content of ancient plays at the expense of their dramaturgy, but it does document an important body of modern experimentation.

DAVID WILES

Malveena McKendrick  
**Theatre in Spain 1490-1700**  
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.  
330 p. £14.95.  
ISBN 0-521-42901-3.

The publication of the paperback edition of this excellent critical survey of Spanish Golden Age theatre comes at a particularly opportune moment, when the recognition afforded to dramatists like Lope de Vega, Tirso de Molina, and Calderón is no longer merely formal, but is beginning to develop as a meaningful evaluation of the quality of their plays in performance. McKendrick's book does these writers full justice, providing important insights both of a comparative and specific nature. Most importantly, her analysis is grounded in the awareness that here were professional dramatists who worked with a specific audience in mind, and whose creative thinking was predicated on a very real sense of stage dynamics.

Of course, the Spanish Golden Age possessed a richness which goes beyond the vast output of

these three major players, and McKendrick displays great critical skill in her tracing of the rise and subsequent flowering of the Spanish drama in all its range and complexity. This is a book which Hispanists and professional theatre practitioners alike will find of great interest, and which will accordingly make its own contribution to the ever growing repertoire of Spanish classical plays in performance.

DAVID JOHNSTON

Gotz Pochat  
**Theater und Bildende Kunst im Mittelalter  
und in der Renaissance in Italien**  
Graz: Akademische Druck u. Verlagsanstalt,  
1990. x, 434 p.

This concise and authoritative overview by the Professor of Art History at Graz University of the interconnections between theatre and art in Italy during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance will be welcomed by theatre historians, not only for its wealth of illustrations and the impressive standard of their reproduction, but for the highly informative manner in which it traces the various and not always immediately evident links between painting, sculpture, architecture, and performance events.

It avoids sacrificing the high medieval for the more richly documented later centuries, providing from its particular perspective a useful examination of the still rather under-explored Italian medieval theatre. Short chapter sections address the rich variety of medieval dramatic and theatrical kinds, through the mimes, *ioculatores*, and *contrasti*, to the religious drama: and although illustration here of the more 'popular' forms is rather thin, the text compensates by examining the complexities of the relationship of these to the religious stages.

Although Pochat appropriately includes some of the more familiar northern visual evidence, like that from Hildesheim and Valenciennes, he focuses more particularly on Italian illustrative materials, notably those bearing on the *laude drammatiche* and the *sacre rappresentazioni*. There are good discussions of these, in relation both to painting and the literary texts, and very good documentation of the later Brunelleschi stagings in the SS. Annunziata and S. Felice in Piazza.

Indeed, throughout the book there is much suggestive juxtaposition of text, drawing, painting, and fresco evidence to illuminate many areas and kinds of stage appearance and practice: thus

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Greek drama has often been reinterpreted to reflect and comment on contemporary issues. In this scholarly study, McDonald (theater, Univ. of California) focuses. Ancient Sun, Modern Light Hardcover October 15, Greek drama has often been reinterpreted to reflect and comment on contemporary issues. and explores the reason for its continuing force and glamour in contemporary theatre. Ancient Sun, Modern Light. Greek Drama on the Modern Stage. Marianne McDonald. Columbia University Press. Main; Reviews; Contents; Excerpt; Links. Ancient sun, modern light: Greek drama on the modern stage. User Review - Not Available - Book Verdict. Greek drama has often been. 'Marianne McDonald's book triumphantly confirms the steadiness of the classical inheritance and explores the reason for its continuing force and glamour in. Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage by Marianne McDonald (review). Brian Johnston. Comparative Drama, Volume 26, Number 3, . The Later Stages of Greek Drama: Inszenierung der Antike. Das Griechische Drama Auf der Bühne der Neuzeit, Hellmut Flashar Ancient Sun, Modern Light. Ancient sun, modern light: Greek drama on the modern stage / Marianne The sanctuary lamp: the light at the end of the night; Thomas Murphy's interview. New York and Oxford: Columbia University Press, McDonald Marianne: Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage. Pp. xi + ; Marianne McDonald Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage New York: Columbia University Press, p. McDonald Marianne: Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage. Pp. xi + ; 34 photographs. New York and Oxford. The Hardcover of the Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage by Marianne McDonald at Barnes & Noble. enlightenmentsword.com: Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek drama on the Modern Stage: Sturdy, attractive, tightly bound, internally clean hardcover copy, black cloth over . enlightenmentsword.com: Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage: Sterling condition hardcover copy, gift-quality. Tips unbruised, spine and. enlightenmentsword.com: Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage ( SIGNED): Fine clean copy in fine dust jacket, INSCRIBED by author. Size: 8vo. Inscribed by author following title page "To who has brought much light into this dark world, Love, and deep respect (signed) Marianne McDonald." Included is. Ancient sun, modern light: Greek drama on the modern stage / Marianne McDonald, p. cm. Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage. New York: Columbia University Press. Among a study of modern productions of Greek Tragedy. Marianne McDonald Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage. Columbia University Press, pages, \$35 Ancient Sun, Modern Light is a. Times has repeatedly remarked on the deluge of Greek tragedy in the theater .. Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage. [PRESS] Updated Ancient Sun Modern Light Greek Drama On The Modern Stage - [EPUB] Available. ANCIENT SUN MODERN LIGHT GREEK DRAMA. Her books include Euripides in Cinema: The Heart Made Visible; Ancient Sun/

Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage; Sing Sorrow. Buy Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage by M McDonald (ISBN: ) from Amazon's Book Store. Everyday low prices. (Professor of Theatre and Classics, University of California, San Diego, to Visible; and Ancient Sun, Modern Light: Greek Drama on the Modern Stage;.

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