

Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, 1875 To 2000

Theatre Survey

production he more than held his reputation as a "notorious prankster" (134). The play was full to the brim with puns on "cock play" (134), and Adams's treated her "same-sex desiring female fans" to "an ornithological lesbian kiss in Act IV when Chantecler [played in magnificent cock drag by Adams] and the Pheasant Hen emerge from a love nest inside a hollow tree trunk and "touch beaks"" (141).

While each of the previous impresarios and their female stars garner two chapters apiece, David Belasco scoops them with three. This is needed, as Belasco's story intersects with emerging American actor training, empire building (both theatre venues and playwrighting), nineteenth-century pornography, and medical gynecology. On the surface it seems remarkable that Belasco could teach Carter, through a long and often brutal process, to act and garner her star power: Carter's much publicized divorce trial had left her branded an adulteress and her husband, acquitted of abuse charges, with sole custody of their son. However, Marra lucidly explains the gender dynamics at play that make such a Svengali-like transformation not only possible but worryingly predictable. Since Carter was an acknowledged "fallen woman" (in contrast to Adams and Rehan), for much of the public she not only deserved the purported physical abuse of Belasco's training but her sexual waywardness warranted continual monitoring. Marra makes a clear and startling connection between nascent actor-training methods in the male-dominated New York School of Acting and gynecological treatment meted out by doctors trying to control women's wandering wombs. In both cases men—as teachers and doctors—worked to "drill" women into sexual submission.

This is a unique and thrilling work. It positions sexuality at the contested center of nineteenth-century theatre making in America. For those diehards who refuse to consider gender and sexuality as crucial to our understanding of performance, this book should rightfully set the record straight.

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Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, 1875 to 2000. By Carol Allen. New York and Bern: Peter Lang, 2005. pp. 295. \$72.95 cloth, \$32.95 paper. doi:10.1017/S0040557408001075

Reviewed by Barbara Lewis, University of Massachusetts Boston

In *Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, 1875 to 2000*, Carol Allen covers a historical sweep of a century and a quarter of black female writing for the American stage, beginning with Pauline Hopkins through Ntozake Shange, and ending with the American Place Theatre twenty-fifth-anniversary revival of her *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf*. Along the way, in a chapter each, Allen studies the plays of Adrienne Kennedy and Alice Childress, Mary Burrill, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Marita Bonner, Eulalie Spence, May Miller, Zora Neale Hurston, and Shirley Graham DuBois are surveyed in one chapter that considers the outpouring of writing for the stage by black women that occurred between

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brisca-nl.com: Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, to (): Carol Allen: Books. This book features African American women playwrights from to , with an emphasis on the late nineteenth century, a period rarely treated in regard to. African American Women Playwrights: A Research Guide. Front Cover. Christy Gavin Peculiar passages: black women playwrights, to Carol Allen. Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, to By Carol Allen. New York and Bern: Peter Lang, pp. \$ cloth. Peculiar passages: black women playwrights, to / Carol Dawn Allen . Author. Allen, Carol, Published. New York: Peter Lang, c Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, to This book features African American women playwrights from to , with an emphasis on. The Hardcover of the Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, to by Carol Allen at Barnes & Noble. FREE Shipping on \$25 or. Download Citation on ResearchGate Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, to By Carol Allen. New York and Bern: Peter Lang, pp. [PDF] Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, to Full Collection . 2 years ago 0 views. Stardusatai Stardusatai. Follow. Click Here. Table of Contents for Peculiar passages: black women playwrights, to / Carol Allen, available from the Library of Congress. She not only discusses what shapes the black feminism of these writers but also points out how Peculiar passages: black women playwrights, to Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, to , edited by Carol of the theatrical work of Harlem Renaissance women writers. Peculiar passages: Black Women Playwrights, to New York: Peter Lang, Print. Anderlini, Serena. Drama or Performance Art?. Selected Bibliography Abbotson, Susan Allen, Carol D. Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, to NY: Peter. A landmark work in the study of Black theater and drama, African American Theatre offers the first Peculiar passages: black women playwrights, to Three plays about the struggles of black people convey the author's feelings of anger and Peculiar passages: black women playwrights, to We will begin by positioning African American literature within an American .. Allen, Carol D. Peculiar Passages: Black Women Playwrights, to

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