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# **The Theatre Of Black Americans: A Collection Of Critical Essays**



## Synopsis

(Applause Books). From the origins of the Negro spiritual and the birth of the Harlem Renaissance to the emergence of a national black theatre movement, *The Theatre of Black Americans* offers a penetrating look at a black art form that has exploded into an American cultural institution. Among the essays: James Hatch *Some African Influences on the Afro-American Theatre*; Shelby Steele *Notes on Ritual in the New Black Theatre*; Sister M. Francesca Thompson OSF *The Lafayette Players*; Ronald Ross *The Role of Blacks in the Federal Theatre*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I enjoyed the collection of Essays regarding Black Theater. It seems the more that you read into the book,(laid out very well) the more you see certain themes of Black Theatre which the author lays out in one of the essays. Towards the end it can get a little contradictory, according to some authors, whether there is or is not a Black aesthetic when it comes to theater. In all it is a great book and one that African American Actors and producers would be wise to review because you see a lot of the issues surfacing today.It is a little dated, but it is written as if the authors are talking to their intended audience today and a lot of the points that they make are still valid. This is not to say that it is didactic, as it is mostly a survey of Black theater history with more of an emphasis on revolutionary theater.

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