

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910464201603321
Autore	Worthen William B. <1955->
Titolo	Modern drama and the rhetoric of theater / / W. B. Worthen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, California : , : University of California Press, , 1992 ©1992
ISBN	0-520-96304-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (241 p.)
Disciplina	822/.9109
Soggetti	English drama - 20th century - History and criticism American drama - 20th century - History and criticism Theater - Production and direction - History - 20th century Theater - English-speaking countries - History - 20th century Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Theater and the Scene of Vision -- 2. Actors and Objects -- 3. Scripted Bodies: Poetic Theater -- 4. Political Theater: Staging the Spectator -- Postscript. Sidi's Image: Theater and the Frame of Culture -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The history of drama is typically viewed as a series of inert "styles." Tracing British and American stage drama from the 1880's onward, W. B. Worthen instead sees drama as the interplay of text, stage production, and audience. How are audiences manipulated? What makes drama meaningful? Worthen identifies three rhetorical strategies that distinguish an O'Neill play from a Yeats, or these two from a Brecht. Where realistic theater relies on the "natural" qualities of the stage scene, poetic theater uses the poet's word, the text, to control performance. Modern political theater, by contrast, openly places the audience at the center of its rhetorical designs, and the drama of the postwar period is shown to develop a range of post-Brechtian practices that make the audience the subject of the play. Worthen's book deserves the attention of any literary critic or serious theatergoer interested in the relationship between modern drama and the

spectator.
