1. Record Nr. UNINA9910731582003321 Autore Johnson Katie N. **Titolo** Racing the Great White Way: Black performance, Eugene O'Neill, and the transformation of Broadway / / Katie N Johnson University of Michigan Press, 2023 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-472-90360-8 Classificazione PER011020PER011010 Disciplina 812/.52 Soggetti African Americans in the performing arts African Americans in the performing arts - History - 20th century Black people in the theater Black people in the theater - United States - History - 20th century Theater - United States - History - 20th century PERFORMING ARTS / Theater / History & Criticism PERFORMING ARTS / Theater / Direction & Production Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di contenuto Chapter 1: The Emperor's Remains -- Chapter 2: An Algerian in Paris --Chapter 3: Broadway's First Interracial Kiss -- Chapter 4: Racing Operatic Emperors -- Chapter 5: Racing the Cut: Black to Ireland --Conclusion: What Remains? Challenging the widely accepted idea that Broadway was the white-hot Sommario/riassunto creative engine of U.S. theater during the early twentieth century. author Katie Johnson reveals a far more complex system of exchanges between the Broadway establishment and a vibrant Black theater scene in New York and beyond to chart a new history of American and transnational theater. The early drama of Eugene O'Neill, with its emphasis on racial themes and conflicts, opened up extraordinary opportunities for Black performers to challenge racist structures in modern theater and cinema. By adapting O'Neill's dramatic text-changing scripts to omit offensive epithets, inserting African American music and dance, or including citations of Black internationalism-theater artists of color

have used O'Neill's dramatic texts to raze barriers in American and

transatlantic theater. Challenging the widely accepted idea that Broadway was the white-hot creative engine of U.S. theater during the early 20th century, author Katie Johnson reveals a far more complex system of exchanges between the Broadway establishment and a vibrant Black theater scene in New York and beyond to chart a new history of American and transnational theater. In spite of their dichotomous (and at times problematic) representation of Blackness, O'Neill's plays such as The Emperor Jones and All God's Chillun Got Wings make ideal case studies because his work stimulated extraordinary, and underappreciated, traffic between Broadway and Harlem-between white and Black America. While it focuses on investigating Broadway productions of O'Neill, the book also attends to the vibrant transnational exchange in early to mid-20th century artistic production. Anchored in archival research, Racing the Great White Way recovers not only vital lost performance histories, but also the layered contexts for performing bodies across the Black Atlantic and the Circum-Atlantic.