

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910735593203321
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Titolo	Act Like A Man : Challenging Masculinities in American Drama / / Robert Vorlicky
Pubbl/distr/stampa	2023 Ann Arbor : , : University of Michigan Press, , 1995 ©1995
ISBN	0-472-90420-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource : illustrations
Classificazione	LIT000000PER000000SOC028000
Disciplina	812/.5409353
Soggetti	Rôle selon le sexe - Dans la littérature Masculinité - Dans la littérature Männlichkeit Drama Sex role in literature Men in literature Masculinity in literature Male dramatists Gender identity in literature American drama American drama - 20th century - History and criticism Critiques littéraires. Literary criticism Criticism, interpretation, etc. USA
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	; Introduction. Gender, structure, and dialogue -- ; 1. The American masculine ethos, male mythologies, and absent women -- ; 2. Silence, violence, and the drama of abuse -- ; 3. Liberation in confinement -- ; 4. Realizing freedom : risk, responsibility, and individualization -- ; Epilogue. Beyond power plays : men, sexism, feminism, and

representation.

#### Sommario/riassunto

"In the first comprehensive study of plays written for male characters only, Robert Vorlicky offers a new theory that links cultural codes governing gender and the conventions determining dramatic form. *Act Like a Man* looks at a range of plays, including those by O'Neill, Albee, Mamet, Baraka, and Rabe as well as new works by Philip Kan Gotanda, Alonzo Lamont, and Robin Swados, to examine how dialogue within these works reflects the social codes of male behavior and inhibits individualization among men. Plays in which women are absent are often characterized by the location of a male "other"--A female presence who distances himself from the dominant, impersonal masculine ethos and thereby becomes a facilitator of personal communication. The potential authority of this figure is so powerful that its presence becomes the primary determinant of the quality of men's interaction and of the range of male subjectivities possible. This formulation becomes the basis of an alternative theory of American dramatic construction, one that challenges traditional dramaturgical notions of realism"--Publisher's description