Record Nr. UNINA9910961618303321 Autore Arons Wendy <1964-> **Titolo** Performance and Femininity in Eighteenth-Century German Women's Writing: The Impossible Act // by W. Arons New York: .: Palgrave Macmillan US: .: Imprint: Palgrave Macmillan. , Pubbl/distr/stampa 2006 **ISBN** 9786611360740 9781281360748 1281360740 9780230600737 0230600735 Edizione [1st ed. 2006.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (281 p.) Collana Palgrave Studies in Theatre and Performance History, , 2947-5775 Disciplina 830.9/928709033 Soggetti Education Literature Theater - History European literature Theatre History European Literature 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 (p. [239]-261) and index. Nota di contenuto Cover; Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction; 1 "Sophie" and the "Theater": 2 Performance as Power: The History of Lady von Sternheim; 3 The Performance of a Lifetime: Karoline Schulze-Kummerfeld; 4 Antitheatricality and the Public Woman: Marianne Ehrmann's Amalie: A True Story in Letters: 5 The Eye of the Beholder: Elise Burger's "Aglaja" and F. H. Unger's Melanie, the Foundling: 6 Play's the Thing: Sophie Mereau's "Marie" and "Flight to the City"; Conclusion; Notes; Bibliography; Index Sommario/riassunto In this book, Wendy Arons examines how women writers used theater and performance to investigate the problem of female subjectivity and to intervene in the dominant discourse about ideal femininity. Arons

shows how contemporary demands for sincerity and authenticity placed

a peculiar burden on women in the public sphere, especially on

actresses, who - like professional writers - overstepped the boundaries of what was considered proper behavior for women. Paradoxically, in their representations of ideal women engaged in performance, these writers expose ideal femininity as an impossible act, even as they attempt to perform it in their writing and in their lives.