



# Victorian Theatricals (Diaries, Letters and Essays)

*Sara Hudston*

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## **Victorian Theatricals (Diaries, Letters and Essays) Sara Hudston**

A captivating study of the plays, literature and writings about private and public theatrical spectacle during the Victorian Age

By the 1890s the British theatre had transformed itself into a world where spectacles and public shows were aimed at the widest audience possible. The theatre had become big business. This anthology brings together a variety of plays and prose which sets this phenomenon in perspective and traces the development of Victorian theatricals from private home events in the late-Georgian period to full-scale Gilbert and Sullivan operettas in the 1890s. The section Theatrical Behaviour looks at the world of the audience and includes extracts from Jane Austens novel Mansfield Park; Thackerays Vanity Fair; an anonymous playlet called Acting Proverbs; and an extract from Marie Corellis novel Sorrows of Satan. In Fun and Freaks we explore the world of popular, sensationalist entertainment through the eyes of Dickens, Thomas Hardy, Dion Boucicault and others. In the final section, Society, we have the scripts for four principal melodramas and serious plays of the age: The Factory Lad by John Walker; Society by T.W. Robertson; The Mikado by W.S. Gilbert and The Second Mrs Tanqueray by Arthur Wing Pinero.

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