

## Home on the Stage: Domestic Spaces in Modern Drama


By Nicholas Grene


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As a serious drama set in an ordinary middle-class home, Ibsen's *A Doll's House* established a new politics of the interior that was to have a lasting impact upon twentieth-century drama. In this innovative study, Nicholas Grene traces the changing forms of the home on the stage through nine of the greatest of modern plays and playwrights. From Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* through to Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, domestic spaces and personal crises have been employed to express wider social conditions and themes of class, gender and family. In the later twentieth century and beyond, the most radically experimental dramatists created their own challenging theatrical interiors, including Beckett in *Endgame*, Pinter in *The Homecoming* and *Parks in Topdog/Underdog*. Grene analyses the full significance of these versions of domestic spaces to offer fresh insights into the portrayal of the naturalistic environment in modern drama.

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### Editorial Review

Review

"Suggestive and insightful."

Irish Times

#### About the Author

Nicholas Grene is Professor of English Literature at Trinity College, Dublin, a Senior Fellow of the College, a Member of the Royal Irish Academy and a Life Member of Clare Hall, Cambridge. He has published widely on Shakespeare, drama, and Irish literature, and his books include *Bernard Shaw: A Critical View* (1984), *Shakespeare's Tragic Imagination* (1992), *The Politics of Irish Drama* (Cambridge University Press, 1999) and *Shakespeare's Serial History Plays* (Cambridge University Press, 2002). Among his most recent books are *Yeats's Poetic Codes* (2008), the New Mermaids edition of *Major Barbara* (2008), *Synge and Edwardian Ireland* (co-edited with Brian Cliff, 2011), and a memoir *Nothing Quite Like It: An American-Irish Childhood* (2011). He has been invited to speak in over twenty countries and has been a visiting professor at the University of New South Wales, Dartmouth College and the University of Paris IV (Sorbonne).

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