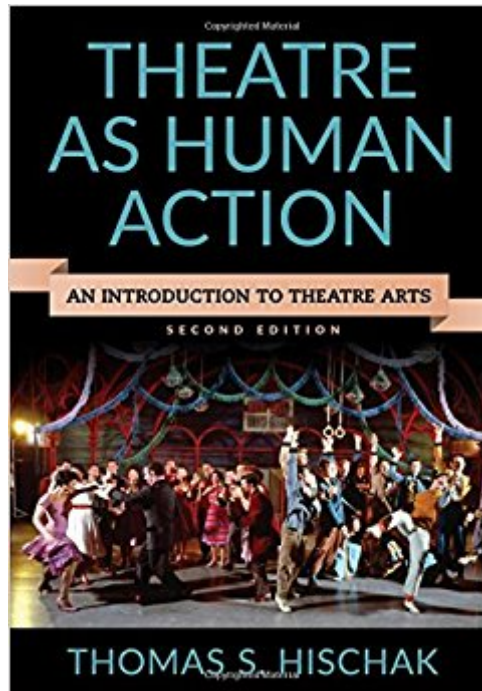




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# Theatre As Human Action: An Introduction To Theatre Arts



## Synopsis

Most introductory theatre textbooks are written for theatre majors and assume the student already has a considerable amount of knowledge on the subject. However, such textbooks may be counterproductive, because they reference several works that may be unfamiliar to students with limited exposure to theatre. *Theatre as Human Action: An Introduction to Theatre Arts, Second Edition* is designed for the college student who may be unacquainted with many plays and has seen a limited number of theatre productions. Focusing primarily on four plays, this textbook aims to inform the student about theatre arts, stimulate interest in the art form, lead to critical thinking about theatre, and prepare the student to be a more informed and critical theatregoer. In addition to looking at both the theoretical and practical aspects of theatre arts—from the nature of theatre and drama to how it reflects society—the author also explains the processes that playwrights, actors, designers, directors, producers, and critics go through. The four plays central to this book are the tragedy *Macbeth*, the landmark African American drama *A Raisin in the Sun*, the contemporary rock musical *Rent*, and—new to this edition—the American comedy classic *You Can't Take It with You*. At the beginning of the text, each play is described with plot synopses (and suggested video versions), and then these four representative works are referred to throughout the book. This second edition also features revised chapters throughout, including expanded and updated material on the technical aspects of theatre, the role of the audience and critic, and the diversity of theatre today. Structured into nine chapters, each looking at a major area or artist—and concluding with the audience and the students themselves—the unique approach of *Theatre as Human Action* thoroughly addresses all of the major topics to be found in an introduction to theatre text.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hischak lays out very clearly the aims of the text in the introduction and meets them all by the end. The use of the four featured plays provides a nice framing device for the text as a whole and provides the reader with continuity while reinforcing the details of those particular stories. This a well-organized, easy-to-follow, and engaging book. (Patricia Downey, University of South Dakota) I adore this book for its comprehensive nature and its demonstration of the reasons how and why theatre is collaborative. Theatre as Human Action has a logical progression of ideas, provides the reader with an abundance of photos, and is an easy read regardless of one's familiarity with the subject matter. (Laurel Whitsett, The University of Texas at Arlington)

Thomas S. Hischak is an internationally recognized author, director, and teacher in the performing arts. He is the author of twenty-five books about theatre, film, and popular music, including The Oxford Companion to the American Musical, The Rodgers and Hammerstein Encyclopedia, Off-Broadway Musicals since 1919, The Disney Song Encyclopedia, American Literature on Stage and Screen, and The Encyclopedia of Film Composers. Hischak is professor of theatre at the State University of New York College at Cortland.

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