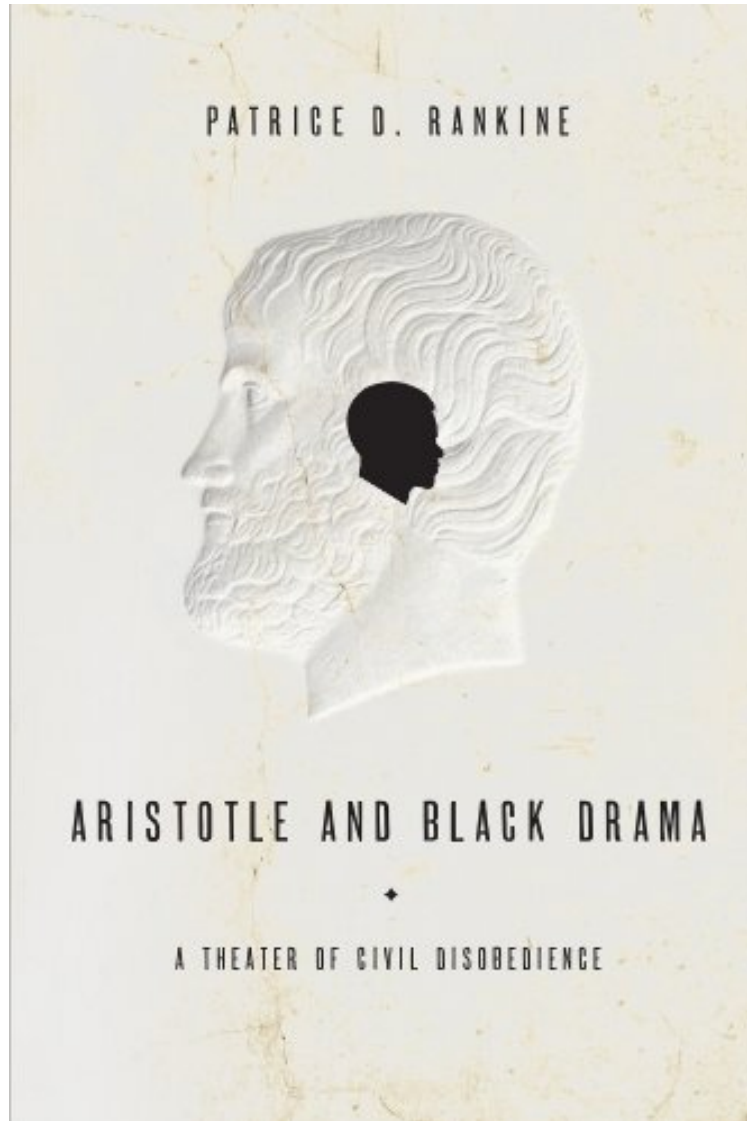


[FREE] Aristotle and Black Drama: A Theater of Civil Disobedience

Aristotle and Black Drama: A Theater of Civil Disobedience

Patrice D. Rankine

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Patrice D. Rankine : Aristotle and Black Drama: A Theater of Civil Disobedience before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Aristotle and Black Drama: A Theater of Civil Disobedience:

Civil disobedience has a tattered history in the American story. Described by Martin Luther King Jr. as both moral reflection and political act, the performance of civil disobedience in the face of unjust laws is also, Patrice Rankine

argues, a deeply artistic practice. Modern parallels to King's civil disobedience can be found in black theater, where the black body challenges the normative assumptions of classical texts and modes of creation. This is a theater of civil disobedience. Utilizing Aristotle's Poetics, Rankine ably invokes the six aspects of Aristotelian drama—character, story, thought, spectacle, song, and diction. He demonstrates the re-appropriation and rejection of these themes by black playwrights August Wilson, Adrienne Kennedy, and Eugene O'Neill. Aristotle and Black Drama frames the theater of civil disobedience to challenge the hostility that still exists between theater and black identity.

"This book invites us to revise existing genealogies of black theater and offers us the provocative idea of classical theory of drama as a handmaiden for the theater of civil disobedience. Like the best ideas it is bold and original and, on reading, makes perfect sense." Emily Greenwood, Professor of Classics, Yale University

"Situating Aristotle's Poetics as a major intertext, Rankine demonstrates that perhaps the most radical form of classical reception is that which sets things in motion both in the movements of actors on stage and in the conscience of those watching." Denise Eileen McCoskey, Associate Professor of Classics, Affiliate, Black World Studies, Miami University

"this book will be thought provoking and richly rewarding for specialists in classical and/or black literature." Choice

"The reader is challenged to move beyond the moral constraints of Aristotelian drama and adopt a consciousness that involves recognizing the interplay of various sociopolitical forces and how they operate simultaneously to create an environment where convention, rather than principle, is challenged." Chy Sprauve, Lehman College, Journal of African American Studies

About the Author Patrice D. Rankine is Professor of Classics and Dean for the Arts and Humanities at Hope College.