

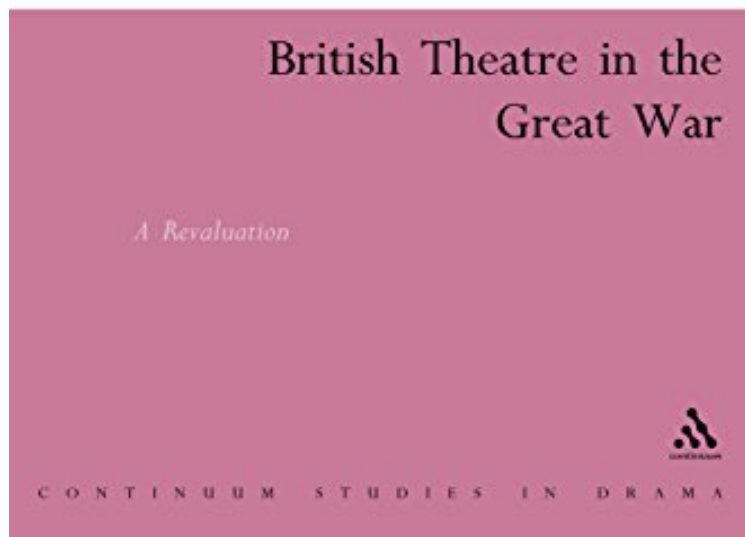
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## British Theatre in the Great War: A Revaluation

*Gordon Williams*

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**Gordon Williams : British Theatre in the Great War: A Revaluation** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised British Theatre in the Great War: A Revaluation:

British Theatre in the Great War deals with a theatrical phase customarily dismissed by those charting twentieth-century developments. What becomes clear is that assessment by unsuitable literary criteria has masked the importance of the war years in British theatrical history. In avoiding a texts bias, the book reveals a period of unsurpassed prosperity in which the stage's substantial contribution to the war effort is only one notable feature. That it

also saw the commercial theater's absorption of Continental avant-gardeism by way of revue, the last great epoch of music hall, the rise of the Old Vic with a project in opera and Shakespeare, and the unprecedented popularity of opera everywhere--this was surely the most fruitful period of Thomas Beecham's theatrical career--is compelling argument for reevaluation. In his reassessment of this period, Dr. Williams extensively examines scripts and press coverage, providing a comprehensive overview from popular pantomime to the specialist work of the private stage as well as discussion of such issues as working conditions and censorship.

About the Author Gordon Williams is Reader in English at the University of Wales, Lampeter. Previous books include *A Dictionary of Sexual Language and Imagery in Shakespearean and Stuart Literature* (3 vols, Athlone, 1994) and *Shakespeare, Sex and the Print Revolution* (Athlone, 1996).