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*Lionel Pilkington*

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What is the significance of theatre and performance within Irish culture and history? How do we understand the

impact and political potential of Irish theatre? This innovative survey of theatre in Ireland covers a range of drama and performance, from the 17th century to the present. Expanding the field of Irish theatre to include mumming, wake games, prison protests and theatre riots, the book argues that Ireland's longstanding association with performance illuminates key aspects of its cultural history and politics. Foreword by Fiona Shaw

ldquo;This is a valuable, concise book written by a fine scholar whose work is widely known and admired. It will prove an excellent addition to reading lists for courses in modern drama and Irish Studies.rdquo; mdash;Stephen Myers Watt, Adjunct Professor of Theatre and Drama, Indiana University