

PLAYS AND PLAYERS



Theatre Essays by
BERNARD SHAW

BERNARD SHAW
PLAYS & PLAYERS

ESSAYS ON THE THEATRE

Selected
with an Introduction by
A. C. WARD

LONDON
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

INTRODUCTION <i>by</i> A. C. WARD	vii
TWO NEW PLAYS	i
POOR SHAKESPEAR!	9
AN OLD NEW PLAY AND A NEW OLD ONE	17
MR PINERO'S NEW PLAY	25
DUSE AND BERNHARDT	33
ROMEO AND JULIET	41
THE OLD ACTING AND THE NEW	50
PLAYS OF THE WEEK	58
MICHAEL AND HIS LOST ANGEL	66
THE IMMORTAL WILLIAM	75
HENRY IV	85
THE SECOND DATING OF SHERIDAN	95
'THE SPACIOUS TIMES'	105
BLAMING THE BARD	114
LITTLE EYOLF	124
IBSEN WITHOUT TEARS	134
RICHARD HIMSELF AGAIN	142
BETTER THAN SHAKESPEAR	152
SATAN SAVED AT LAST	161

CONTENTS

THE NEW IBSEN PLAY	170
OLIVIA	178
SHAKESPEAR IN MANCHESTER	187
MEREDITH ON COMEDY	196
MR PINERO ON TURNING FORTY	204
MADAME SANS-GÊNE	214
JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN	221
IBSEN TRIUMPHANT	231
MAINLY ABOUT SHAKESPEAR	241
ROBERTSON REDIVIVUS	250
GHOSTS AT THE JUBILEE	257
HAMLET	265
SHAKESPEAR AND MR BARRIE	275
HAMLET REVISITED	285
TAPPERTIT ON CÆSAR	290
MR PINERO'S PAST	299
BEAUMONT AND FLETCHER	307
SHAKESPEAR'S MERRY GENTLEMEN	312
THE DRAMA IN HOXTON	319
KATE TERRY	328
G. B. S. VIVISECTED	334
VALEDICTORY	339
INDEX	343

Essays and Criticism in the World's Classics

SPECIMENS OF
ENGLISH DRAMATIC CRITICISM

Selected with an Introduction by A. C. Ward

No. 498

ENGLISH CRITICAL ESSAYS

Selected and edited by Edmund D. Jones

No. 240. SIXTEENTH TO EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES

No. 206. NINETEENTH CENTURY

No. 405. TWENTIETH CENTURY

THE CHARACTERS OF
SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS

By WILLIAM HAZLITT No. 205

SHAKESPEARE CRITICISM

No. 212. HEMINGE AND GONDELI. TO CARLYLE: *Selected and
Introduced by D. Nicol Smith*

No. 436. 1919-1935: *Selected and Introduced by Anne Ridler*

¶ *A list of volumes in the World's Classics series is available on
application to the Publisher*

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS