“Manon van de Water’s Theatre, Youth, Culture: A Critical and Historical Exploration offers a clear, concise, and accessible introduction to international theatre for young audiences (TYA), particularly of the shifting material circumstances under which this theatrical genre is produced and perceived in the US, Russia, and the Netherlands. The strategy of organizing by topics—tabs, gay/lesbian TYA, theatre as therapy in volatile regions, and theatre for the very young—is a brilliant move, and I cannot imagine a more impressive and invigorating treatment of topics and theories so central to contemporary TYA practice. Uniquely and perfectly, van de Water utilizes her vast personal experience and a wealth of inspirational, real-world case studies to write an engaging and informing book that, I believe, will be returned to time and again.”

- Lorenzo Garcia, chair of Dance and Theatre Department, associate professor of Theatre for Young Audiences, University of North Texas

**About the Book**

*Theatre, Youth, and Culture* offers multiple, intersecting narratives of the complex relationships between performance, youth, and the shifting material circumstances (social, cultural, economic, ideological, and political) under which theatre for children and youth—birth through twenties—is generated and perceived. The book consists of six chapters; each focusing on a different aspect of theatre for young people (TYA) and each illustrated by theatrical events in different geographical regions globally. While the chapters can be read independently, in the discussion of the history, theory, and practice of TYA the book as a whole indicates the wide variety of hitherto under-researched topics in the growing field of professional theatre for young people.

**About the Author**

Manon van de Water is a Professor of Theatre Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she directs and supervises the theatre for young audiences productions. Her research interests have a strong international focus and include the interdependence of meaning and material conditions in theatre for adults and youth, Russian theatre, international theatre for youth, and theatre and drama in volatile regions. She has published widely on theatre, drama education, and theatre for young audiences in national and international journals and books. Van de Water is the author of two books, *Moscow Theatres for Young People: A Cultural History of Ideological Coercion and Artistic Innovation, 1917-2000* (2006) and *Dutch Theatre for Children: Three Plays* (2008), and the editor of *TYA, Culture, Society: International Essays in Theatre for Young Audiences* (2012). She has been the chair of the International Theatre Audiences Research Network, the research network of Assitej, since 2008.
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