

ANTHEM STUDIES IN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE

## MOLIÈRE ON STAGE

What's So Funny?



Robert W. Goldsby

## Molière on Stage

What's So Funny?

Robert W. Goldsby

**Pub Date:** 01 April 2012**Binding:** Paperback**Price:** £24.99 / \$39.95**ISBN:** 9780857284440**Extent:** 222 pages**Size:** 152 x 229 mm /

6 x 9 inches

**Illustrations:** 46+ illustrations**Series:** Anthem Studies in Theatre and Performance**BISAC CATEGORY:** PERFORMING ARTS / Theater /  
History & Criticism PERFORMING ARTS / Theater /  
Direction & Production, LITERARY CRITICISM / Drama**BISAC CODE:** PER011020**BIC CODE:** DSG**RIGHTS****Exclusive:** WORLD

**An analysis of the performance of Molière's plays – both then and now – that explores their lasting quality and the debt they owe to the life, history and comedic genius of the playwright. Listed as an Outstanding Academic Title of 2012 by "Choice."**

"Goldsby has filled a significant need in Molière studies, and has done so in an accessible and entertaining manner. Fans as well as serious students of Molière now have a new and exciting resource, and actors and directors of the French comic master should reap great benefits as well." — Michael Schwartz, stagemagazine.org

"In this compelling analysis of exceptional French and American productions, including some of his own, Goldsby draws on personal experience gained from 50 years of studying, translating, and directing Molière. He pays homage to both world-renowned directors – Copeau, Jouvet, Mnouchkine – and less familiar professionals, e.g., Robert Falls and Ron Leibman. By revealing the pure gold found in live theater, Goldsby proves that time does not diminish the laughter of true comedy. Summing Up: Essential" —C. B. Kerr, Vassar College, "Choice"

"[T]his is a book for the theatre practitioners and for anyone looking to understand why Molière is one of the top classic playwrights—one who deserves the kinds of staging that Goldsby shows us." —Felicia Hardison Londré, "Theatre History Studies"

'Molière on Stage' takes the reader onstage, backstage and into the audience of Molière's plays, and analyzes the performance of his works in both his own time and ours.

**Readership**

This book will interest theater aficionados, those interested in comedy, and people involved professionally and/or academically with the stage.

**Contents**

Acknowledgments; Chronology of Plays Discussed; List of Illustrations; Act One: The Back Story; I. " 'Allo, Molière"; II. The First Stages; III. Finding His Light; IV. The Actor Unmasked; Act Two: The Agon; V. Into the Mouth of the Wolf; VI. "Go Saddle Yon Braying Ass!"; VII. Entrances...; VIII. ...And Exits; IX. She Loves Me... She Loves Me...; X. ...Not!; Act Three: The Comic Relief; XI. Blessèd Laughter; XII. Classic Routines; XIII. Musical Comedy; XIV. The Bones of Farce; Act Four: And Leave 'em Laughin'; XV. The Dancing Skeleton; XVI. The Imaginary Invalid; XVII. Full Circle; Notes; Works Cited and Consulted; Index

**About the Author(s) / Editor(s)**

Robert W. Goldsby is a retired professor and chairman emeritus at the Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

**Ordering in the UK/Rest of the World**

Marston Book Services

P.O. Box 269, Abingdon, Oxfordshire

OX14 4YN, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1235 465577 | Fax: +44 (0)1235 465556

direct.orders@marston.co.uk | trade.orders@marston.co.uk

**Ordering in North America**

Books International

P.O. Box 605, Herndon, VA

20172-0605 United States

Tel: +1 703 661 1570 | Fax: +1 703 661 1501

bimail@presswarehouse.com

75-76 Blackfriars Road | London SE1 8HA | United Kingdom | Tel: +44 (0)20 7401 4200 | Fax: +44 (0)20 7401 4225

244 Madison Ave. #116 | New York | NY 10016 | United States | Tel: +1 646 736 7908 | Fax: +1 646 839 2934

info@anthempress.com | sales@anthempress.com | publicity@anthempress.com | www.anthempress.com