



### The Final Curtain: The Art of Dying on Stage

By Laurence Senelick

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### A book about the representation of dying in the theatre.

It is a book about dying, or, more accurately, about the representation of dying in the theatre. Its chief concern is how actors undertook to translate words and concepts into forms legible and significant to an audience. It deals with the ways in which playwrights wrote about death and attitudes towards death in their cultures. Nevertheless, the emphasis is on the practice of acting.

#### Readership

Both academics and readers of nonfiction interested in cross-cultural ideas of death, history of the theatre and acting; fans of the morbid, grotesque and funereal; human beings who wish to contemplate their own mortality.

#### Key selling points

- The only book to cover the history of death on stage from the Greeks to the present.
- Emphasis on the performance of the act of dying.
- Richly researched in often arcane and unusual sources.
- Written in a highly accessible style devoid of academic jargon.

#### Contents

List of Figures; Introduction; 1. Early Stages; 2. Murder Most Foul; 3. Death- Defying Exploits; 4. Sick unto Death; 5. Shadow and Substance; Epilogue: Post- Mortem; Bibliography; Index.

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

Laurence Senelick is Fletcher Professor Emeritus of Drama and Oratory at Tufts University and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His many books include *The Changing Room: Sex, Drag and Theatre*; *The American Stage* (Library of America); and *Jacques Offenbach and the Making of Modern Culture*.

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