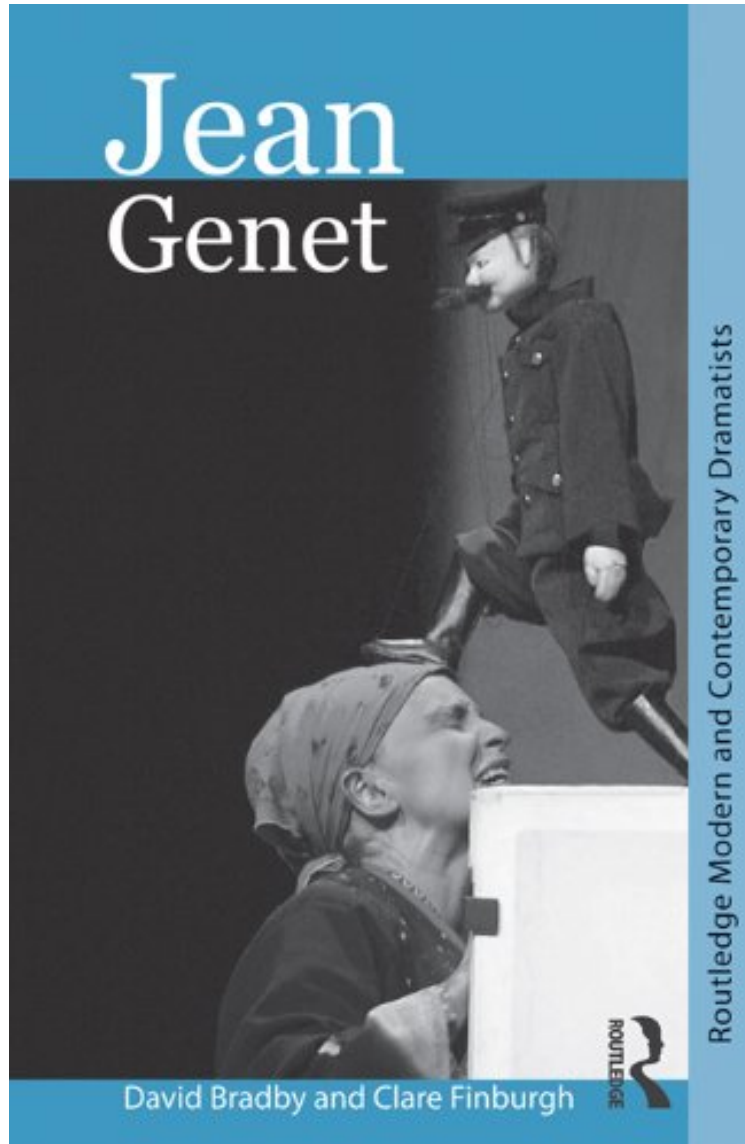


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Jean Genet (Routledge Modern and Contemporary Dramatists)

David Bradby, Claire Finburgh
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David Bradby, Claire Finburgh : Jean Genet (Routledge Modern and Contemporary Dramatists) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jean Genet (Routledge Modern and Contemporary Dramatists):

This book is the only introductory text to Genet in English, offering an overview of this key figure in defining and understanding twentieth-century theatre. The authors provide a comprehensive account of Genet's key plays and

productions, his early life and his writing for and beyond the theatre.

'This volume is a gem. Written by two experts in modern French theater, whose stated objective is to render the complexity of Genet's work exhilarating rather than intimidating, the book is neatly organized into two equally important parts. The first provides an overview of Genet's life and politics along with a concise reading of the philosophical, historical, and aesthetic implications of six masterworks: *The Maids*, *Deathwatch*, *Splendid*, *The Balcony*, *The Blacks*, and *The Screens*. The second focuses on the remarkable range of styles that Genet's texts inspire and the multiple ways in which directors, designers, and actors have infused life into his plays over the past 60 years. Clare Finburgh (Univ. of Essex, UK) and the much-missed David Bradby (a pioneer of performance studies who died in 2011) delve into more than 20 groundbreaking productions, from Louis Jouvet's naturalist staging of *The Maids* (1947) to Uzi Top and Excalibah's hip-hop, slam-poetry remix of *The Blacks* (2007). Together with Edmund White's magnificent *Genet: A Biography* (CH, Mar'94, 31-3682), this short but comprehensive treatment bears witness to the continued political relevance and artistic power of one of the most controversial and influential authors of the 20th century. Summing Up: Essential.' C.B. Kerr, CHOICE

About the Author David Bradby was Emeritus Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies at Royal Holloway. He was the UK's leading specialist in modern French theatre, writing several seminal works on the subject, including *Le Theatre en France* (2007) and *Modern French Drama* (1984, 1991). He was also a prolific translator of French dramatists, including Michel Vinaver and Bernard-Marie Koltès. Clare Finburgh is Senior Lecturer in Modern Drama at the University of Essex. She has co-edited *Genet: Performance and Politics* (with Carl Lavery and Maria Shevtsova, 2006) and *Contemporary French Theatre and Performance* (with Carl Lavery, 2011). She has published many articles on Genet, and a range of contemporary French and Francophone theatre-makers including Valeria Novarina, Noémie Renaude and Kateb Yacine.