

# Table of Contents

Preface — 5

01 Korean Theater Prior to the 1970s — 11

02 Modernization of Tradition and Introduction of Western Experimental Theater in the 1970s — 20

- Yu Deok-hyeong: A Pioneer of Contemporary Korean Theater at Drama Center
- Ahn Min-soo: Encounter of Traditional Asian Theater and Theater of Cruelty
- Oh Tae-suk: Molière Revived in the Traditional Korean Performing Arts
- Succession of Traditional Performing Arts as Political Satire
- Theatre Group Minye's Adoption of Tradition
- Non-realistic Playwrights

03 Resurgence of Original Korean Theater and *Madanggeuk* in Anti-Dictatorship Activism in the 1980s — 51

- *Madanggeuk* Going Indoors
- The Korean Theater Festival
- Launch of Mokwha Repertory Company by Oh Tae-suk
- Jayu Theater Company: Display of Traditional Korean Beauty toward the World
- Michoo Theatre Company: Modernization of Traditional Performing Arts
- Ki Kook-seo's *Hamlet* Series
- Introduction of Foreign Theater Productions and Diversification of Korean Plays



**04 Postmodernist Spectacle and the Emergence  
of Young Directors in the 1990s** — 86

- Lee Youn-taek: A Powerless Intellectual and a Showman on the Stage
- Chae Seung-hun: Insanity of Death in the Criticism towards Civilization
- Choi Yong-hun's Theater Company ZakEunShinHwa: Exhilarating Satire through Collective Creation
- Cho Kwang-hwa: The Patriarchal System and the Opressed Sexual Energy
- Kim Ara: A Glamorous Stylist amid Nature
- Oh Tae-suk: Exposé on the Inhumanity of Korean Society
- Sohn Jin-chaek: National Consciousness and Advanced Theatrical Aesthetics
- Ki Kook-seo: Scumbags of Postmodernist Society

**05 Appreciation of New Everyday Life and the Search for  
Alternatives since the 2000s** — 119

- Park Keun-hyeong: Cracks underneath the Surface of Ordinary Life
- Han Tae-sook: Mise-en-scène of Dark Desire
- Choi ZinA: A Woman as the Subject of Desire
- Bae Sam-sik: Contemplation on Ecological Life
- Oh Tae-suk: From Rage and Nightmares to Reconciliation and Life
- Lee Youn-taek: Renewed Interpretation of Koreans throughout History
- Yang Jeong-woong: A Traveler of the Global Age

**06 Epilogue** — 158

**Notes** — 163

**Bibliography** — 167