Contents

Acknowledgments ix
Introduction—Nicoletta Marini-Maio and Colleen Ryan-Scheutz 1
Prologue: Theater Performance with American Students—
Dacia Maraini, translated by Elena Past 19

I. Theater in Italian Literature and Culture
ONE Authors, Texts, and Innovative Movements: An Overview of the Italian Theatrical Canon—Pietro Frassica 27
TWO Acting Italian: From the Piazza to the Stage—William Van Watson 50

II. Theater Courses in the Italian Language Curriculum
THREE The Theatrical Workshop in the Italian Curriculum—Salvatore Bancheri 83
FOUR Creative Connections: The Theater Practicum and the Integration of Language and Literature Study—Francesca Savoia 114
FIVE Theater Texts and Techniques in the High School Classroom—Laura Colangelo and Colleen Ryan-Scheutz 144

III. Genres, Themes, and Techniques of Italian Theater
SIX Epic Theater, Comic Mode: Understanding Italian Society through the Works of Dario Fo and Franca Rame—Walter Valeri 171
SEVEN Commedia dell’Arte’s Techniques: Theater Research and Italian Language Interplay—Gian Giacomo Colli 187
## EIGHT Opera as Theme, Opera as Theater: A Content-Based Approach to the Teaching of Italian Language and Culture—Daniela Noè-Le Sassier and Frances Boyd 212

### IV. Methods and Assessment in Italian Theater Workshops

#### NINE Full-Scale Play Production: Filling the “Empty Space” between Language and Literature with Fo and Pirandello—Nicoletta Marini-Maio 239

#### TEN Community, Culture, and Body Language: Staging the Female Voice in the Italian Drama Workshop—Antonella Del Fattore-Olson 267

#### ELEVEN Proficiency and Performance: Assessing Learner Progress in the Italian Theater Workshop—Colleen Ryan-Scheutz 291

## V. Director’s Handbook

#### Text Selection: A Few Criteria—William Van Watson 323

#### Financial Resources, Publicity, and Community—Salvatore Bancheri 330

#### The Italian Drama Workshop in Three Acts—Antonella Del Fattore-Olson 333

#### Training the Body, Coaching the Mind: Preliminary Acting Exercises—Gian Giacomo Colli 334

#### Monologue/Monodrama Projects—Francesca Savoia 339

#### English Translations and Surtitles for the Public Performance: Rationale and Practicalities—Nicoletta Marini-Maio 342

#### “It’s Showtime!” A Concise Guide to Italian Theater Production for New Directors—Laura Colangelo 350

#### Afterword: An Interview with Dario Fo and Franca Rame. Thoughts on Theater, Engagement, and the Comic. Examples for a New Pedagogy—Interview by Walter Valeri, translated by Giuseppe Gazzola 383

#### Index 397

Illustrations follow p. 382