Drama: Plays & the Theatre

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ABBOTT, George and Ann Preston Bridgers. *Coquette*. New York: Longmans, Green and Co. 1928. First edition. Introduction by Percy Hammond. A faint dampstain on the front board, green spine a bit mottled, some scattered foxing to the first and last two leaves, very good plus in a very near fine dustwrapper with slight age-toning, a very attractive copy. The play was written specifically for Helen Hayes, who starred in the Broadway production and is the dedicatee of the book. This copy *Inscribed* by Helen Hayes: "To my hero, Percy Hammond. Helen Hayes 1928." Hammond, the prominent and acerbic drama critic for the *New York Herald Tribune*, provided the introduction, which is quoted at length on the jacket's front flap. Basis for the 1929 Sam Taylor-directed film. Mary Pickford bought the film rights to the play and took over Hayes's part in her first talking film role, and won the Academy Award for Best Actress. An exceptional association copy.  
#54524 .......................................................... $2000

ALBEE, Edward. *The Zoo Story The Death of Bessie Smith The Sandbox*. New York: Coward-McCann (1960). First edition. Fine in very good dustwrapper with the price intact, and a large but very faint stain. Author's first hardcover book, preceded only by a wrappered acting edition. The only copy we have seen in recent memory with the price intact.  
#281951 .......................................................... $500

#100655 ............. $750


ANDERSON, Maxwell. *Elizabeth the Queen: A Play in Three acts*. London: Longmans, Green 1930. First edition. Fine in a very good dustwrapper with a tanned spine and a chip at the foot and a smaller one at the crown. #58173 .......................... $60

ANDERSON, Maxwell. *High Tor: Comedy In Three Acts*. Dramatists Play Service (1937). First acting edition. Near fine in wrappers. In 1956 Julie Andrews made her American television debut opposite Bing Crosby in a CBS musical production of this play that was also, according to one source, the first ninety-minute television movie. #43490 ......................................................... $65

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**BEHRMAN, S.N. Brief Moment: A Comedy in Three Acts.** New York: Farrar & Rinehart (1931). First edition. A tiny tear at the crown thus near fine in a spine-tanned, near very good dustwrapper (designed by "Jung"). Actor Hume Cronyn's copy with his bookplate and ownership signature on the front fly, and small owner's stamp on the front panel of the jacket. A play that was the basis for the 1933 David Burton film featuring Carole Lombard and Gene Raymond. In the original Broadway production author Alexander Woollcott played a supporting role based on himself! #98210 ......................................................................................... $850

BESIER, Rudolf. *The Barretts of Wimpole Street.* Boston: Little, Brown 1930. First American edition. Contemporary owner's name and address on the front fly, a couple of pages a little roughly opened, and a little light wear at the crown, a very good plus copy in worn dustwrapper with considerable chipping at the extremities. Advance Review Copy with slip laid in. A complex psychological play about Elizabeth Barrett Browning and her over-protective (and possibly incestuous) father's attempts to stifle her love life. Basis for two excellent film versions, both directed by Sidney Franklin. The first was made in 1934 with Norma Shearer, Frederic March, Charles Laughton and Margaret Sullivan, the second in 1957 with Jennifer Jones, John Gielgud, Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna. Both the English and American firsts are very scarce, and exceptionally so in jacket. #41037 ........................................ $85

BOLT, Robert. *A Man For All Seasons.* New York: Random House (1962). First American edition. Very good in a very good dustwrapper with a darkened spine and rear panel, light wear at the top of the spine. The film adaptation based on this play won Bolt an Academy Award for Best Screenplay, as well as five other Oscars including Best Picture. #294101 .................... $85

BROOKS, Charles S. *The Tragedy of Josephine Maria and Other One Act Plays.* New York: Harcourt Brace and Company (1931). First edition. Name on the front pastedown and a bump to the edge of the front board, near fine in attractive, near fine dustwrapper with one internal repair and a scrape on the rear panel. Comedies for small theatres featuring two or three actors. Brooks wrote travel books and was also active in the founding of little theatres. His play *Wappin' Wharf* was produced over 150 times. Jacket art by Julia M. Flory. #46044 .................. $75

CHASE, Mary. *Mrs. McThing: A Play.* New York: Oxford University Press 1952. Revised edition. Illustrated by Madeleine Gekiere and Helen Sewell. Very good with some discoloration around the extremities and some foxing on the top edge in very good dustwrapper with some chips out of the extremities. #109767 ...... $45

CHAYEFSKY, Paddy. *Television Plays.* New York: Simon & Schuster 1955. First edition. Spine lettering dull as usual, else near fine in a slightly rubbed, just about fine dustwrapper. A curious double-inscribed copy, first Inscribed, apparently to a family member: "To a Chayefsky from The Chayefsky," which has then been crossed out and re-inscribed "To Dr. Gilbert from Paddy Chayefsky." Chayefsky's first book, a collection of six plays including *Marty,* an excellent character study that was the basis for the film which won deserved Oscars for Chayefsky, Ernest Borgnine, director Delbert Mann, and Best Picture. Not often found inscribed. #347426 ....... $750
CHAYEFSKY, Paddy. *The Tenth Man.* New York: Random House (1960). First edition. A little scattered foxing to the foredge and a couple of pages, else about fine in a lightly rubbed, near fine dustwrapper. Inscribed by the playwright: "May / 60 Dear Coby: May you be deeply identified with the next one – Paddy." #15208 ................................................................. $500


COWARD, Noël. *Waiting in the Wings.*

CROWLEY, Mart. *The Boys in the Band.*
New York: Farrar Straus Giroux (1968). First edition. A small stain to the bottom of the boards and text block, thus about very good in good dustwrapper with scrapes along the top of the front panel. Full-page Inscription from Crowley to the actress Ruth Ford: "Algonquin NYC 1/12/69, Ruth, I'm so glad that I am lucky enough to have found you. It's such a shame to think that there will be, and are some, who'll miss you and never even know how they've been cheated. With gratitude and with my love, Mart." Ford, the Mississippi-born sister of surrealist author Charles Henri Ford, was a beautiful model and actress, first in Orson Welles's Mercury Theatre, and later in films and theater. Her apartment in the Dakota became a salon for authors such as Tennessee Williams, Edward Albee, Terrence McNally, and Truman Capote. A chance encounter between Stephen Sondheim and Arthur Laurents in her Manhattan living room led to their collaboration, with her Dakota-neighbor Leonard Bernstein, on *West Side Story.* Ford is well known also for her long friendship with William Faulkner. He wrote his experimental 1951 title *Requiem for a Nun,* a sequel to his early and controversial novel *Sanctuary,* with her in mind. In 1959 she adapted the play herself and starred in its London production opposite her second husband, Zachary Scott. Ford continued to act on both stage and screen well into the 1980s. The first successful play to revolve entirely around the gay lifestyle. Basis for the 1970 William Friedkin film. A book seldom found signed, we've never seen one with a better inscription. A wonderful inscription and nice association. #320321 ...... ................................................................................................................. $2000
D'Annunzio, Gabriele. *The Dead City*. Chicago: Laird & Lee (1902). First American edition. Translated from the Italian by Professor G. Mantellini. Contemporary pencil name else fine in very attractive, about fine, spine faded dustwrapper. A play written by D'Annunzio for his mistress, the great actress Eleonora Duse. Rare in jacket. #39129 $500


DUERRENMATT, Friedrich. *The Visit.* New York: Random House (1958). First American edition. Adapted by Maurice Valency. Fine in about very good dustwrapper with some scuffing on the spine and other light wear. A stage hit in America with Lynn Fontanne and Alfred Lunt, it has been filmed several times, including a 1964 version with Ingrid Bergman and Anthony Quinn. #57988 ................................................. $30


FERBER, Edna and George S. KAUFMAN. *The Land Is Bright*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran 1941. First edition. Very good with several tape shadows on the pastedowns and endpapers, wrinkle in the cloth at the top corner of the front board, in a very good dustwrapper. #294251


FULLER, Charles. *A Soldier's Play.* New York: Nelson Doubleday (1982). Book club edition. Near fine in age-toned, very good dustwrapper with a tear. Powerful Pulitzer Prize winning play which featured Adolph Caesar, Denzel Washington, and Samuel L. Jackson in the original stage production. Much of the cast returned two years later for the film adaptation (retitled *A Soldier's Story*), scripted by Fuller and directed by Norman Jewison. This copy Signed twice by Adolph Caesar, who won the 1982 Drama Desk Award Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play, and was nominated for a Best Actor Academy Award. #297778 ................................................................. $75
GALSWORTHY, John. *The Skin Game.* New York: Scribner's 1920. First American edition. Neat, contemporary inscription and a little fading to the spine else fine lacking the uncommon dustwrapper. Basis for the 1931 Alfred Hitchcock film, written by Hitchcock and his wife Alma Reville, both versions starring Edmund Gwenn (in his first talkie, reprising his role from a 1920 silent version) as a rich factory owner at odds with an aristocratic family. #14762 .............................................. $45


GREGORY. Lady. *The Full Moon: A Comedy in One Act*. Dublin: Published by the Author at the Abbey Theatre 1911. First edition. Illustrated stiff wrappers. Unopened. Chipping along the edges of the yapped wrappers, thus a good only copy. A scarce and fragile play. #286826 .................................. $150


HECHT, Ben. *To Quito and Back*. New York: Covici Friede Inc. (1937). First edition. Very slight soiling to the boards still about fine in very good plus dustwrapper with a little rubbing and a couple of tiny nicks. A play about a South American native uprising, with attractive jacket art. Director Hal Roach spotted Victor Mature appearing in the Pasadena Playhouse production of this play and a star, or at least a "Beautiful Hunk of Man," was born. #45996 $150 $105


HOLM, John Cecil and George Abbott. *Three Men on a Horse*. New York: Samuel French 1935. First edition. Slight foxing to the title page, still easily fine in fine dustwrapper with some infinitesimal tanning to the spine. A nice copy of this comic classic about a writer of greeting cards who is kidnapped when it is discovered that he can predict horse races. Basis for the fun Mervyn LeRoy film with Frank McHugh and Sam Levene. #46542 ................................. $150


HOWARD, Sidney. *Alien Corn*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons 1933. First edition. Fine in a price-clipped, very good or better dustwrapper with a small chip on the front panel, and some very faint stains on the spine. A relatively short run but important play which featured Katharine Cornell and Luther Adler in the original Broadway run. #284885 ......................................................... $100


KELLY, George. *Reflected Glory*. New York: Samuel French (1937). First edition. Slight foxing on the spine else fine in very good plus dustwrapper that is faded at the spine, and has tiny nicks at the corners. A play written for, and starring Tallulah Bankhead, illustrated with stills from her performance. Very scarce. #75401 ................................................................. $350


LAURENTS, Arthur, book, Music by Leonard Bernstein and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. West Side Story. New York: Random House (1958). First edition. Fine in near fine, spine tanned (but not faded) dustwrapper which is otherwise bright and fresh. Sondheim's first Broadway musical, a breathtaking update of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet to contemporary New York street-gangs. Rarely have concept, setting, score, libretto and choreography come together so brilliantly on stage. That the achievement could further be translated so successfully to film, winning ten Academy Awards, is without precedent. It is also the only film for which two directors received Oscars (Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise). #84591 ................................................................. $1500


#6788 ................................................................. $95 $66.50


#284806 ........................................................... $100

LERNER, Alan Jay. *Paint Your Wagon*. New York: Coward-McCann (1952). First edition. Slight mottling to the boards, else fine in near fine dustwrapper with a tiny tear at the crown and two tiny stains on the rear panel, but with none of the usual spine-fading to the delicate red spine. Includes a foreword by Lerner: "Advice to Young Musical Writers." The Broadway musical was adapted into a 1969 Joshua Logan film featuring Lee Marvin, Clint Eastwood and Jean Seberg. 

#51843 ................................................................. $225

#338231 ................................................................. $1250


#285201 ............................................................................ $75


#284790 ................................................................. $150
LINDSAY, Howard and Russel Crouse. *Strip for Action*. New York: Random House (1943). First edition. Slight offsetting from the jacket flaps else fine in near fine dustwrapper with a little rubbing. Screwball comedy about a burlesque troupe's invasion of an Army base intending to raise the spirits of the soldiers, by the playwrights who collaborated on *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Life With Father*. #13313 ........................................ $150

LINDSAY, Howard and Russel Crouse. *State of the Union*. New York: Random House (1946). First edition. Attractive contemporary bookplate front pastedown else fine in a near very good dustwrapper with a moderate-sized jagged tear on the front panel, some loss at the crown and several finger smudges on the rear panel. A Pulitzer Prize-winning political comedy that featured Ralph Bellamy on Broadway, and was made into a Frank Capra movie with an all-star cast including Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, Angela Lansbury and Van Johnson. #13314 ................................................................. $85 $59.50

LINDSAY, Howard and Russel Crouse. *Tall Story*. New York: Random House (1959). First edition. Very fine in a price-clipped dustwrapper that is 3/16" shorter than the book, but which is otherwise especially fine and bright. A comedy based on Howard Nemerov's novel *The Homecoming Game*, the play version was made into the memorable movie *Tall Story*, which was Jane Fonda's film debut as a boy-crazy co-ed who falls for basketball player Anthony Perkins. #13410 ...... ................................................................................ $150

LOOS, Anita. *Gigi*. New York: Random House (1952). First edition. Fine in very good, spine-faded dustwrapper with a short tear and a little smudge on the front wrap. Features several photos from the original Broadway production featuring Audrey Hepburn (before she became a screen star). A dramatization of the Colette novel, it later became the wonderful Vincente Minnelli film with Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier, Louis Jourdan and a Lerner and Loewe score which ranks among the best ever written expressly for the screen. #285184 ................................................................. $65


MILLER, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman*. New York: Viking Press 1949. First edition. Very slight sunning to the extremities else fine in near fine dustwrapper with rubbing and a tiny nick near the crown, and very slight fading on the spine. A very nice copy of this Pulitzer Prize-winning play, one of the classics of American drama and basis for a number of film and television versions with Fredric March, Lee J. Cobb, Rod Steiger, Dustin Hoffman, and Brian Dennehy, among others, assaying the role of salesman Willy Loman. #338494 ................................................................. $2400


Author's Own Prompt Copy

PINTER, Harold. *The Caretaker*. London: Methuen & Co. (1960). First Methuen edition, wrappered issue (preceded slightly by an acting edition). A small crease on the front wrap, a little soiling, a pleasing, very good copy. This is Pinter's own copy, unsigned, but apparently used as either a prompt copy or in revising the play for radio, with corrections (mostly deletions, some of them very substantive on nearly every page). Formerly the property of his first wife Vivien Merchant. The Nobel laureate's own copy of one of his first major works. #103253 ................................................................. $35,000


RICE, Elmer. *Flight to the West*. New York: Coward-McCann (1941). First edition. Fine in very good or better dustwrapper that is price-clipped (obscuring a couple of letters of text), and is a little yellowed at the extremities and is spine faded. A scarce wartime play. #13019 ................................................................. $100 $70

RODGERS, Richard and Oscar Hammerstein, 2nd. Oklahoma!. New York: Random House (1943). First edition. A little foxing on the boards, and slight offsetting from the jacket flaps on the endpapers as usual, else fine in fine dustwrapper. The extremely fragile, rough-textured soft paper jacket makes this one of the scarcest titles to find in an already scarce genre, as musicals were seldom published in very large printings – this is a lovely copy. The first collaboration by the most successful writing team of American musical theatre, this landmark musical based on Lynn Riggs' play Green Grow the Lilacs was a smash hit on Broadway and won a special Pulitzer Prize. Many of the show's songs, including "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" and the title song, became instantly recognizable classics. In 1955 it became a successful Fred Zinnemann film featuring Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones, and with a supporting cast including Rod Steiger and Eddie Albert. The film won Oscars for Best Score and Sound Recording. Seldom found in this condition. Among the great highspots of the American stage. #97562 ...................................... $1250

RYERSON, Florence and Colin Clements. Harriet. New York: Scribner's 1943. First edition. Fine in attractive, very good dustwrapper with some scuffing to the bottom of the front panel, affecting some lettering. A play in three acts, based on the life of author Harriet Beecher Stowe. The jacket portrays Helen Hayes in the title role. Both of the authors (who were married) were successful screenwriters as well, although Ryerson achieved the most success, and is perhaps best known for one of her final scripts – the classic 1939 version of The Wizard of Oz. #45268 ............................ $85


SHEPARD, Sam. *La Turista.* London: Faber (1969). First English edition. Introduction by Elizabeth Hardwick. Near fine in lightly soiled, near fine dustwrapper with three very short tears on the rear panel. The author's first full length play, the London premiere was just two weeks after the American. #13316 $50

SHERWOOD, Robert E. *Waterloo Bridge.* New York: Scribners 1930. First edition. Slight offsetting to the front fly, else fine in very good dustwrapper with some modest chipping, particularly at the crown and with a small ink spot on the front panel. Very nicely Inscribed by the author: "To William Phelps with love and gratitude – Robert Emmet Sherwood, April 1930." Fourth play by the four time Pulitzer Prize-winner, about a London chorus girl reduced to prostitution during WWI. Basis for two excellent films, the first made by James Whale in 1931 with Mae Clarke (and with Bette Davis in one of her earliest performances), the other by Mervyn LeRoy with Vivien Leigh and Robert Taylor. #37334 $750
SHERWOOD, Robert E. *There Shall Be No Night*. New York: Scribners 1940. First edition. Offsetting to the endpapers from the flaps, some light mottling to the boards, a very good copy in very good plus dustwrapper with some tiny nicks and slight wear. The third and last of the author's Pulitzer Prize winning plays, about a Finnish scientist and his family and what befalls them in their embattled country. This copy *Inscribed* by the author: "for Lowell Thomas, Jr. with every good wish from Robert Sherwood. December 1940." Whether this is inscribed to the famous journalist and travel writer, or to his son is not clear. #15722 $500


(SONDHEIM, Stephen) ZADAN, Craig. *Sondheim & Co.*. New York: Macmillan (1974). First edition. Boards a trifle worn, still very near fine in very good plus dustwrapper with two short, creased tears on the rear panel. Scarce biography and visual history of Sondheim and his musicals, compiled from interviews with Sondheim and his colleagues in the musical theater. #28552 $100 $70
SPEWACK, Bella and Samuel Spewack. *Boy Meets Girl.* New York: Random House (1936). First edition. Fine in about very good dustwrapper with some tears and chipping, mostly along the top of the front panel and on the spine ends. Classic comedy, many think the main characters were based on Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur, as a successful pair of screenwriters whose every work is a variation of the "boy meets girl" plot. We have however, been informed that the main characters were based on the prolific screenwriters Grover Jones and William Slavens McNutt, Jones in particular was a one-man screenplay factory. Basis for the 1938 Lloyd Bacon-directed film featuring James Cagney and Pat O’Brien, and which also numbered Ralph Bellamy and Ronald Reagan among the cast. #64609 ................................................................. $85

SPEWACK, Samuel and Bella. *Lyrics by Cole Porter. Kiss Me Kate: A Musical Play.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf 1953. First edition. Fine in a modestly spine-faded, else near fine dustwrapper. A popular musical play based on *The Taming of the Shrew*, basis for a number of films and television movies, originally directed by George Sidney in 1953 with Kathryn Grayson, Howard Keel, Ann Miller, Keenan Wynn, and Bob Fosse. Made just as Hollywood was trying to give television audiences a reason to return to theaters, it is reportedly the only film shot simultaneously in full frame, widescreen, and 3D versions, and consequently suffers a bit from performers repeatedly lunging themselves at the camera. Also of note is the 1968 television version directed by Paul Bogart with Robert Goulet and Carol Lawrence. #344100 ....... ......................................................................................... $750

STITT, Milan. *The Runner Stumbles.* Clifton NJ: James T. White & Co (1976). First edition. Fine in fine dustwrapper. An excellent play based on a true incident, about a priest accused of killing a nun, basis for the film featuring Dick Van Dyke, Kathleen Quinlan and Maureen Stapleton. *Inscribed* by the author to his editor: "For the lady who gave me the library on East 40th where what was researched for this play could be researched. With gratitude and love – Milan Stitt 8 March 1977." Issued simultaneously in paperback, the hardcover is very scarce. #36938 ................................................................. $250

THOMPSON, Ernest. *On Golden Pond.* New York: Dodd, Mead & Company (1979). First edition. Ink price, not particularly noticeable on the dark front fly, else fine in fine dustwrapper but for a couple of tiny tears on the rear panel, viewable only with effort. Thompson won an Academy Award for his script of the film version; Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn were similarly honored (his only Oscar, her record-breaking fourth). In addition, the teaming of Fonda, in his final film, with his daughter Jane, in roles paralleling their own relationship, provided a brilliant swansong for a long and distinguished acting career. #56582 .............................. $65

VAN DRUTEN, John. I Remember Mama: A Play in Two Acts. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company (1945). First edition. Fine in very good plus dustwrapper with some modest overall soiling. Adapted from Kathryn Forbes' book Mama's Bank Account, the play was the basis for the 1948 George Stevens film with Irene Dunne as Mama. Dunne, Oskar Homolka, Barbara Bel Geddes, and Ellen Corby were all nominated for acting Academy Awards; none of them won. Homolka reprised his role from the original theatrical production, which also featured Marlon Brando in a lesser role. #64006 .......................................................... $75


WASSERMAN, Dale, Joe Darion, and Mitch Leigh. Man of La Mancha. New York: Random House (1966). First edition. Fine in a near fine dustwrapper with less than the usual rubbing and only a touch of the usual spine-fading. A scarce musical play based on Don Quixote which won the New York Drama Critics Award. A much nicer than usual copy. #338237 ................................................................. $450

*A Nice Association Copy*

WILLIAMS, Tennessee. *Battle of Angels*. Murray, Utah: Pharos Numbers 1 & 2 1945. First edition. Small chips and tears to the edges of the yapped wrappers, age-toning at the edges of the wrappers and a short tear on the title page else near fine, housed in a cloth chemise and red quarter morocco slipcase. The author's first separately published work, a play. Inscribed by Williams to his close friend Paul Bigelow: "To my dear friend Paul with very best wishes, Tennessee Williams." Bigelow assisted in the Broadway production of Williams's *Rose Tattoo* in 1951, and also edited several of Williams's works, including the novel *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*, for New Directions. Bigelow, or, "the legendary Paul Bigelow" as he is called in Williams's *Memoirs*, was one of Williams's first openly gay friends. #321103 ........................................................................ $3250


WILLIAMS, Tennessee. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. New York: New Directions 1955. First edition. Fine in near fine dustwrapper with very light wear. Pulitzer Prize-winning play about a dying Southern patriarch and the machinations of his greedy, would-be heirs. The original theatrical performance, directed by Elia Kazan, featured Ben Gazzara, Burl Ives, Barbara Bel Geddes, Pat Hingle, and blues greats Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee. It was successfully translated into film featuring Ives, Elizabeth Taylor, and Paul Newman. The black, thin paper jacket tends to wear inordinately; this is a lovely copy. #102205 ............................................. $1500

WOUK, Herman. *The Traitor: A Drama*. New York: Samuel French (1949). First edition. Cocked thus good in a price-clipped and rubbed, good dustwrapper. Wouk's second and easily scarcest title, a play about an atomic scientist who believes the only way to prevent atomic war is to provide the Russian Communists with a deterrent. Only the second copy we've seen in jacket. #292336 ............................................. $1750