PREFACE

There have been playwrights in America like Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller, Tennesse Williams, to name but the great. Their contribution to the form and themes of drama are significant. But Edward Albee's claims to importance and significance are greater. Although he wrote about fifteen plays and though he suffered neglect early, he is today recognized as a genius. Fascinated by the work of Ionesco, Beckett and other absurd playwrights he wrote plays such as The Zoo Story, The American Dream and Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?. The dissertation discusses the relationship between Albee's absurd plays and other absurd dramas. In the opening chapter Absurd Drama its genesis and growth is analyzed. The work of Ionesco, Jean Genet, Adamov and Beckett is discussed. In the second chapter Albee's The Zoo Story is discussed and in third chapter it is shown how another facet of absurd drama is embodied in The American Dream. In the fourth chapter Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? is analyzed and it is shown that it is a remarkable play with its mosaic of themes introduced by the absurd dramatists. In the concluding chapter Albee's achievement as a playwright and his relationships with other absurd dramatists established.

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