

'Dirk Gindt's meticulously researched book offers valuable new insights into the broader impact of Williams' oeuvre from an interdisciplinary perspective that engages the complexities involved in cultural migration.'

Annette J. Saddik, City University of New York, USA

'Dirk Gindt's meticulously researched study of the reception of Tennessee Williams's best-known plays in Sweden and France is a revelation. His is the first book to analyze the European premieres of Williams's plays by some of the most eminent directors and actors of the period. Gindt's elegantly written prose demonstrates that these plays, first seen during the height of the Cold War, served as lightning rods in Europe for heated debates about anti-Americanism, homophobia, female sexuality and race relations.'

David Savran, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, USA

The immediate post-war period marks a pivotal moment in the internationalization of American theatre when Tennessee Williams' plays became some of Broadway's most critically acclaimed and financially lucrative exports. Dirk Gindt offers a detailed study of the production and reception of Williams' work on Swedish and French stages at the height of his popularity between 1945 and 1965. Analyzing the national openings of seminal plays, including *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Orpheus Descending* and *Suddenly Last Summer*, Gindt provides rich and nuanced insights into Williams' transnational impact. In the process, he charts a network of fascinating and influential directors, actors, designers, producers and critics, all of whom left distinctive marks on mid-twentieth-century European theatre and culture. Gindt further demonstrates how Williams' work foregrounded cultural apprehensions, racial fantasies and sexual anxieties, which resulted in heated debates in the critical and popular media.

**DIRK GINDT** has a PhD in Theatre Studies and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Culture and Aesthetics at Stockholm University, Sweden.

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS  
IN SWEDEN AND FRANCE, 1945-1965

Dirk Gindt



# TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

## IN SWEDEN AND FRANCE, 1945-1965

Cultural Translations, Sexual Anxieties  
and Racial Fantasies

Dirk Gindt

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*Suddenly Last Summer*, directed by Frank Sundström, Malmö City  
Theatre, 1959. (Photo: Alice Strid, © Malmö Opera Arkiv)

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