Contents

Acknowledgements vii

Introduction: Theatrical Performance, Gender Performativity, and the Drama of Performative Malady 1
  Hysteria, trauma, and melancholia as cultural tropes 1
  Hysteria, trauma, and melancholia as performative maladies 4
  Performance and performativity: From termini technici to umbrella terms 10
  The theatre metaphor in Butler's performativity theory 13
  Can performativity materialise as performance? 17

1 The Drama of Hysteria 27
  Hysteria: Theory and theatre 27
  Anna Furse: Augustine (Big Hysteria) (1991) 42
  Kim Morrissey: Dora: A Case of Hysteria (1993) 60
  Terry Johnson: Hysteria or Fragments of an Analysis of an Obsessional Neurosis (1993) 75
  Hysteria as performative malady 89

2 Trauma Drama 93
  Trauma concepts, trauma culture 93
  Victoria Hardie: Sleeping Nightie (1989) 102
  Sarah Daniels: Beside Herself (1990) 114
  Phyllis Nagy: Butterfly Kiss (1994) 128
  Claire Dowie: Easy Access (for the Boys) (1998) 139
  Trauma as performative malady 156

3 The Drama of Melancholia 161
  Concepts of melancholia: From black bile to melancholic incarnation 161
  David Auburn: Proof (2000) 171
  Marina Carr: Portia Coughlan (1996) 184
Sarah Kane: *Cleansed* (1998)  
Melancholia as performative malady  

**Conclusion: The Drama of Performative Malady**  

*Notes*  

*Works Cited*  

*Index*