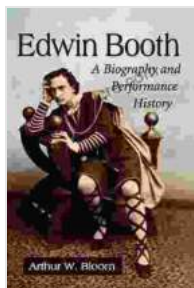


Edwin Booth: A Legend of the American Stage - Biography and Performance History



Edwin Booth (November 13, 1833 – June 7, 1893) was an American actor of the 19th century who is widely considered one of the greatest tragedians

in history. He was the brother of actor John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln.



Edwin Booth: A Biography and Performance History

by Arthur W. Bloom

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 9322 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 360 pages



Early Life and Career

Edwin Booth was born in Bel Air, Maryland, the son of Junius Brutus Booth, a renowned English actor, and Mary Ann Holmes. He made his stage debut at the age of 17 in Richard III and quickly rose to fame as a leading tragedian. Booth was known for his exceptional talent in portraying complex and tragic characters, particularly those of Shakespeare.

Shakespearean Roles

Booth's Shakespearean roles were his most celebrated performances. He was particularly known for his interpretations of Hamlet, Othello, Richard III, and King Lear. His performance as Hamlet was considered one of the greatest in history, and he was praised for his depth of emotion and understanding of the character's complexities.

Founding of Booth's Theatre

In 1869, Booth founded Booth's Theatre in New York City. The theater became a major cultural institution and hosted many of Booth's most famous performances. Booth's Theatre was also the site of his brother John Wilkes Booth's assassination of President Lincoln in 1865.

Later Career and Legacy

After the assassination of his brother, Booth continued his successful acting career. He toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe and was celebrated for his performances in both Shakespearean and non-Shakespearean roles. Booth retired from the stage in 1891 due to health problems and died in 1893 at the age of 59.

Edwin Booth's legacy as a great tragedian is firmly established. He was admired for his exceptional talent, his dedication to his craft, and his ability to captivate audiences with his performances. Booth's influence on the American stage is still felt today, and he remains one of the most celebrated actors in history.

Personal Life

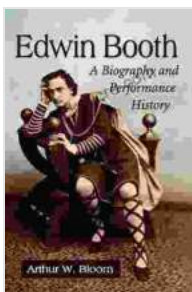
Edwin Booth was married twice, first to Mary Devlin in 1851 and then to Mary McVicker in 1869. He had four children, including actress Asia Booth Clarke.

Booth was a close friend of fellow actor Henry Irving and the two often performed together. He was also a mentor to young actors, including Lawrence Barrett and Maurice Barrymore.

Edwin Booth Statue in Gramercy Park

A statue of Edwin Booth by Edmond Thomas Quinn was erected in Gramercy Park in New York City in 1913. The statue depicts Booth in the role of Hamlet and is a popular tourist attraction.

Edwin Booth was a legendary actor who made a significant contribution to the American stage. His exceptional talent, dedication to his craft, and ability to captivate audiences with his performances made him one of the greatest tragedians in history. Booth's legacy continues to inspire actors and audiences alike.



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