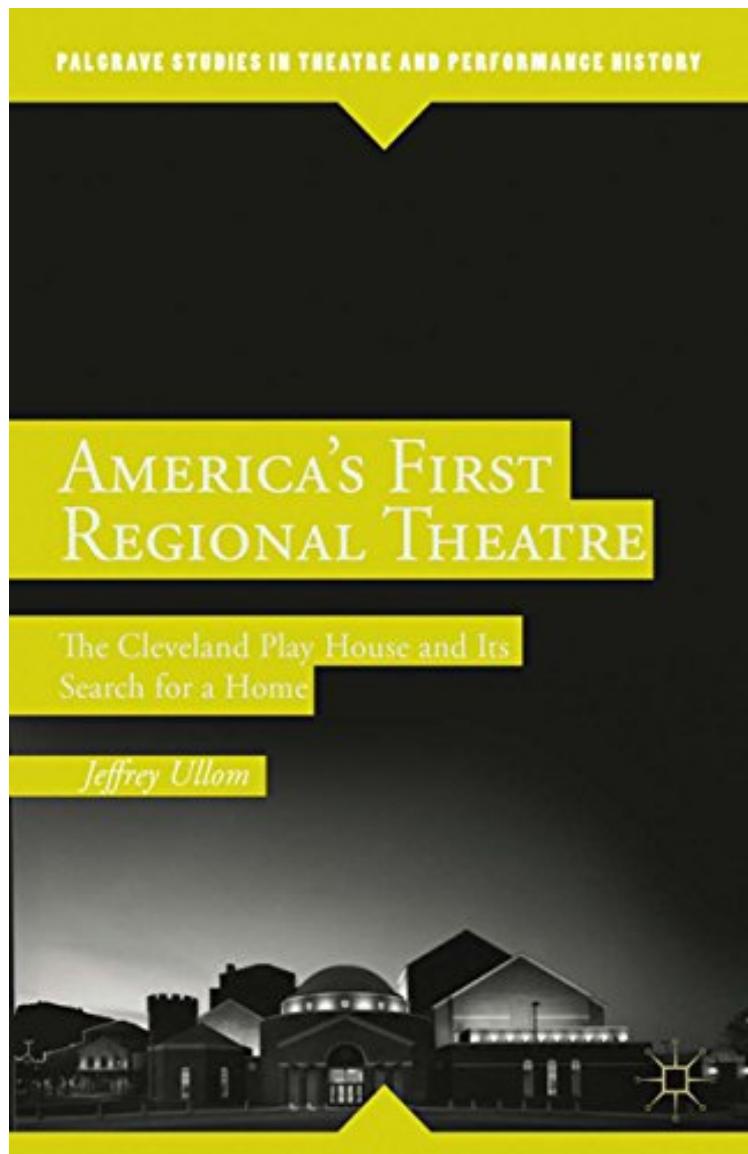


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## **Americarsquo;s First Regional Theatre: The Cleveland Play House and Its Search for a Home (Palgrave Studies in Theatre and Performance History)**

*J. Ullom*

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**J. Ullom : Americarsquo;s First Regional Theatre: The Cleveland Play House and Its Search for a Home (Palgrave Studies in Theatre and Performance History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Americarsquo;s First Regional Theatre: The Cleveland Play House and Its Search for a Home (Palgrave Studies in Theatre and Performance History):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing and outrageously overpriced. By LiteraryxplorerI was brought up in Cleveland and knew The Cleveland Play House well. My parents, local writers, had two plays produced there, and my mother served two terms on the board. Thus I was keen to read this history and learn all the backstage gossip, tales of angst and struggle. Many of the personalities were known to me from parties at my parents' house. The author did a lot of research and his book is decent enough, though in the end rather disappointing. I doubt it'll be of interest to many people. There are some editing errors and serious omissions. The drama with the "world famous architect" is given short shrift. The text is short, the photos are very poorly reproduced and the price is absurdly high. I can't reasonably penalize the author for this; if I did I'd have to give it just one star. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Generations of artistic leaders deal with ambitions, ideals and setbacks from 1915 to today. By Michael Bigelow Dixon A fascinating and informative overview of 20th century American theatre outside of New York is encapsulated in the history of one regional theatre: The Cleveland Play House. Extensive research and colorful quotations bring to life hard-fought accomplishments in the face of often dire political and financial challenges. Ullom's very readable text relates a century of artistic, institutional and civic dramas, including scandals, protests, union strikes, a bombing, suburban flight and urban renewal. Overall, Ullom tells a story of institutional perseverance as generations of artistic leaders deal with ambitions, ideals, and setbacks from 1915 to today.

The Cleveland Play House has mirrored the achievements and struggles of both the city of Cleveland and the American theatre over the past one hundred years. This book challenges the established history (often put forward by the theatre itself) and long-held assumptions concerning the creation of the institution and its legacy.

"Ullom's account of the Cleveland Play House's search for its identity provides a strong paradigm for how this kind of historical project should be done. Working with new archival material, America's First Regional Theatre is a glimpse into the complicated evolution of a cultural treasure. Well-researched, with a strong critical and analytical approach of looking at theatre history through the larger lens of sociology, economics, and politics." - David A. Crespy, University of Missouri, USA and author of *Off-Off-Broadway Explosion* (2003) and Richard Barr: *The Playwrights Producer* (2013) "The history of Cleveland Play House is inseparable from that of the community it has served since 1915. Jeffrey Ullom tells the tale of a pioneering arts institution through a century of triumphs and tribulations, juxtaposed with the story of a once mighty, now resurgent metropolitan community. It is a fascinating read for anyone interested in the history of Cleveland Play House, the American theatre, and the Cleveland community." - Kevin Moore, Managing Director, Cleveland Play House About the Author Jeffrey Ullom is Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre at Case Western Reserve University, USA.