Contents

List of illustrations                  page vii
Contributors                        ix
Preface and acknowledgments          xiii
Introduction                        1
CHRISTOPHER BIGSBY AND DON B. WILMETH
Timeline: Beginnings to 1870         20
COMPILED BY DON B. WILMETH AND JONATHAN CURLEY

1 American Theatre in Context, from the Beginnings to 1870 111
BRUCE MCCONACHIE

2 Structure and Management in the American Theatre from the Beginning to 1870 182
DOUGLAS MCDERMOTT

3 The Plays and Playwrights 216
Plays and Playwrights to 1800 216
PETER A. DAVIS
Plays and Playwrights: 1800–1865 250
GARY A. RICHARDSON

4 The Actors 303
European Actors and the Star System in the American Theatre, 1752–1870 303
SIMON WILLIAMS
The Emergence of the American Actor 338
JOSEPH ROACH
Contents

5 Scenography, Stagecraft, and Architecture
in the American Theatre

Beginnings to 1870

MARY C. HENDERSON

373

6 Paratheatricals and Popular Stage Entertainment

PETER G. BUCKLEY

424

Bibliography

483

Index

507