Role-Play and the World as Stage in the *comedia*

Jonathan Thacker
Contents

Acknowledgements ix
List of Abbreviations x
Foreword xi

Introduction Role-Theory, Metatheatre, and the Reception of Drama 1

1 A Sense of Theatre 19
   1 Patriarchy in Action: Guillén de Castro’s
   La fuerza de la costumbre and the Distribution of Roles 19
   2 Patriarchal Excess and the Emergence of the Desiring Self 34
   3 Role-Play and the World as Stage in the comedia 48

2 Hiding at the Margins: Social Pressures and Escapist Role-Play 66
   1 Marta la piadosa 68
   2 Los locos de Valencia 90

3 A Strategy for Self-Expression: The Puppet-Mistress 107
   1 La dama duende 109
   2 La discreta enamorada 132

4 Exemplary Tragedy: The Social Riposte to Self-Expression 145
   El duque de Viseo and La Estrella de Sevilla 159

Conclusions 177

Bibliography 184
Index 198