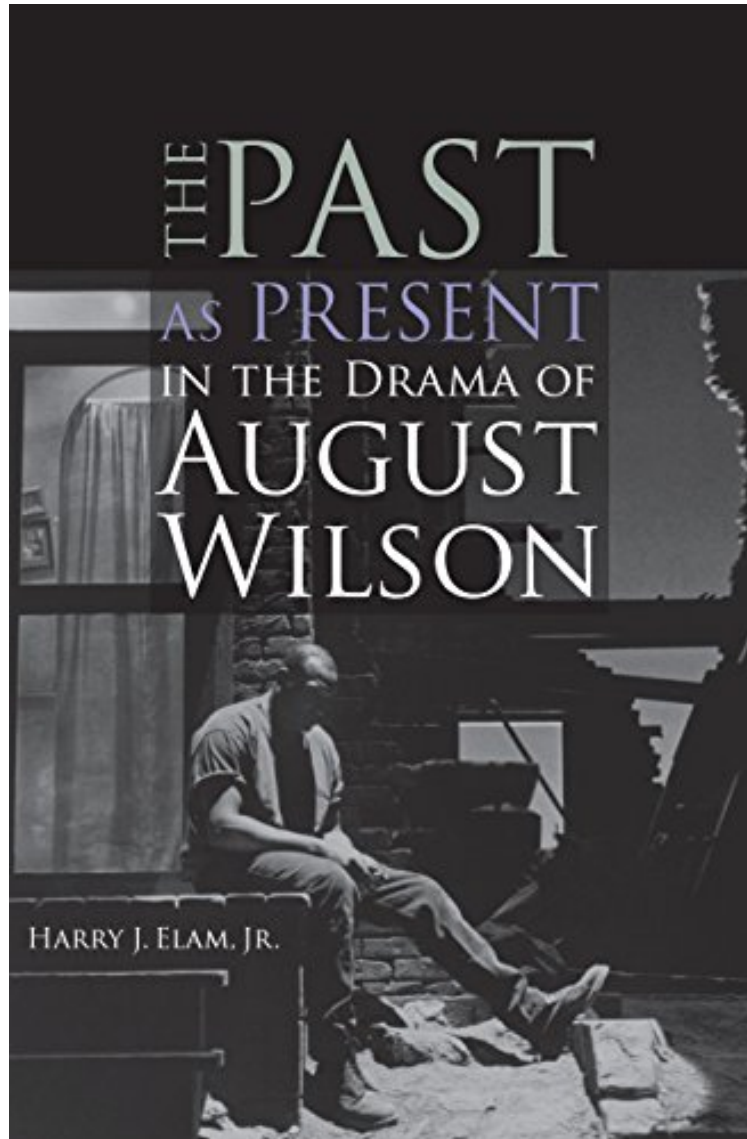


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## The Past as Present in the Drama of August Wilson

*Harry J. Elam*

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerGreat! Thank you!8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. He Changed the Face of African-American TheaterBy John MatlockThere are few playwrights with the list of awards August Wilson received: Pulitzer, Tony's, Drama Desk - and each of these several times over. There are even fewer African American playwrights with such a legacy, namely none other than August Wilson. His ten play series called the Pittsburgh Cycle chronicles the African-American experience in each of the ten

decades of the 20th century. Nine of the plays are set in his hometown of Pittsburgh. This book examines these plays in the context of contemporary African American literature. By doing so, the author (a Stanford University professor) has found hidden depths that increase the understanding of the plays themselves, and add even more respect to the work done by Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson changed the face of the American Theater, and the African-American theater in particular.

"Certain to be "the major study of Wilson for some time to come." About the Author Harry J. Elam, Jr. is Olive H. Palmer Professor in Humanities and Professor of Drama at Stanford University. He is author of *The Past as Present in the Drama of August Wilson* and *Taking It to the Streets: The Social Protest Theater of Luis Valdez and Amiri Baraka*. Kennell Jackson is Associate Professor of History at Stanford, and author of *America Is Me*.