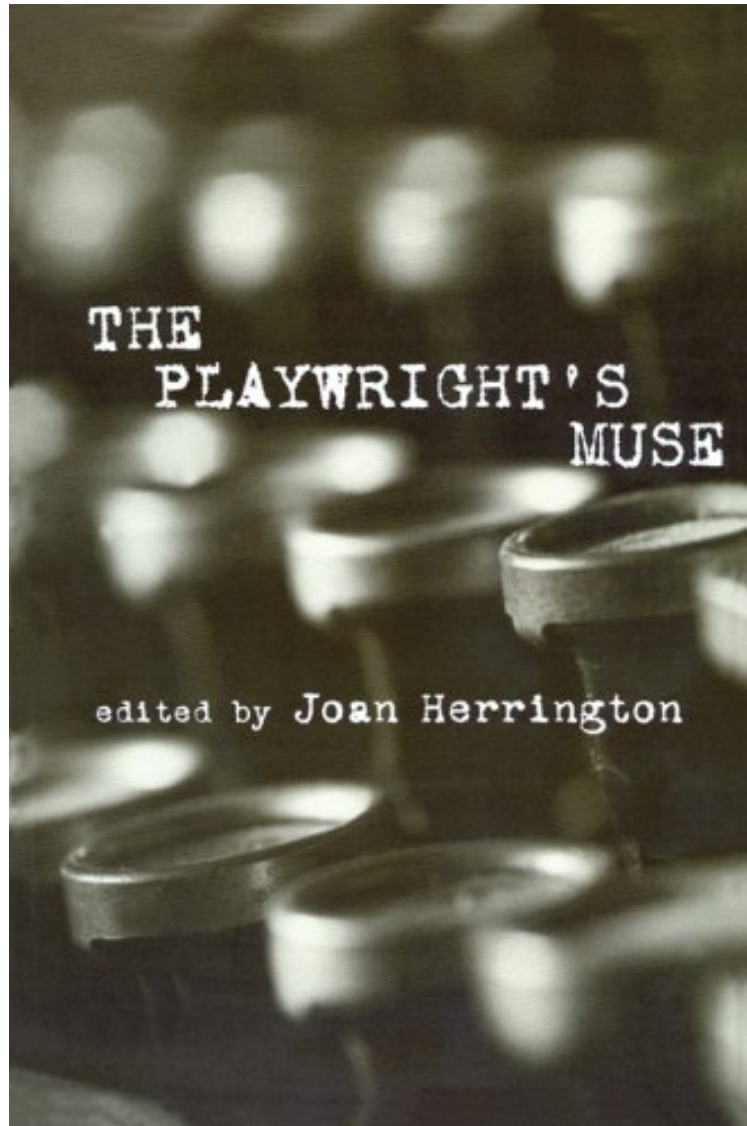


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## The Playwright's Muse (Studies in Modern Drama)

*Joan Herrington*

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**Joan Herrington : The Playwright's Muse (Studies in Modern Drama)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Playwright's Muse (Studies in Modern Drama):

First Published in 2002. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis, an informa company.

From Library Journal This is a wonderful collection of interviews with 11 Pulitzer Prize-winning dramatists, among them Edward Albee, Tony Kushner, Jonathan Larson, Neil Simon, August Wilson, Horton Foote, and Wendy

Wasserstein. As the title suggests, the linking theme is the question of what inspires the dramatist to write, and the interviewers ask pertinent questions about both the playwright and the plays. A separate essay by a scholar or theater artist precedes most of the interviews and serves as a good source of introductory material about the dramatist. One exception is the chapter on Margaret Edson, the author of *Wit*. Here, comments by the interviewer are interspersed with the interview itself, a technique that works quite well as the playwright's and the interviewer's comments often highlight each other. Edson stands out in this collection for two reasons: she is a one-play wonder, and she has no intention of leaving her job teaching kindergarten in the Atlanta school system. Perhaps because she does not consider herself a professional playwright, as do the other ten writers, hers is one of the most interesting chapters.

Recommended for all academic libraries and libraries with significant theater collections. Susan L. Peters, Univ. of Texas, Galveston Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. *The Playwright's Muse* is straightforward in structure, moving from playwright to playwright and coupling an intellectual essay on each with an interview. It is one of those books that one might assume to be primarily of interest to playwrights; but, on the contrary, Herrington's classy collection is a perfect bedside read for those who simply love the theater--and love learning how the lives of its artists affect its creation.

Ben Winters, TheaterMania.com About the Author Joan Herrington is Director of Women's Theatre and Associate Professor of Theatre at Western Michigan University. She is author of *I Ain't Sorry For Nothin' I Done: August Wilson's Process of Playwriting*.