

"Broadway and Beyond: American Drama in the 20th Century"

Dr. Kerstin Schmidt, Amerika-Institut der LMU

This lecture will provide a survey of American drama in the 20th century. Although we will also look at plays that were produced for a mainstream Broadway audience, the focus of this lecture will be on the more innovative American theater scene. We will go "beyond Broadway" and discuss the work of experimental American playwrights that were committed to exploring the boundaries of theater and have often dealt with race, class, and gender as critical and contested issues in 20th-century American society. Dramatists to be considered include Thornton Wilder, Arthur Miller, Edward Albee, Jean-Claude van Itallie, Amiri Baraka, Ntozake Shange, Marsha Norman, Wendy Wasserstein, Suzan-Lori Parks and several others.