

Contents

Preface xi

Introduction i

PART I. ENCOUNTERS

- 1 The First Encounter: Plato's *Symposium* and the Ancient Quarrel between Philosophy and Poetry 21
- 2 "Who's There?" Hamlet as Philosopher and Thespian 59
- 3 Stagings of the Self: The Nietzsche-Strindberg Correspondence 87
- 4 Walter Benjamin and Bertolt Brecht Discuss Franz Kafka: Exilic Journeys 118

PART II. CONSTELLATIONS

- 5 Accidents and Catastrophic Constellations: Performative Agendas 141
- 6 Wishes, Promises, and Threats: The Performative Storytelling of Walter Benjamin 177

Notes 199

Index 219