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By Andrew Baruch Wachtel

University of Washington Press, United States, 2006. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Expectation is an integral part of the reading experience. As we read a text, we begin to classify it and compare it to others with which it seems to share a family resemblance. Drama is a particularly rich and rewarding field for studying the complex ways in which such expectations are created. Theatre audiences and readers of plays are encouraged in a variety of ways to guess at what might unfold on the stage and on the page, and much of the pleasure of the theatrical experience revolves around this guessing game. Plays of Expectations explores these expectations through the lens of twentieth-century Russian drama. In the operas and plays considered here, dramatists tell stories that, for the most part, already existed in the cultural repertoire of the contemporary Russian audience. In each case the dramatists and their texts invite readers or audiences to compare a new version of a familiar story with previous versions. Scholar Andrew Wachtel presents each of these dramatic texts as a nexus of intertextual play, a space in which various incarnations of a storyline can interact to create a new...

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