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Brian Friel is widely recognized as Ireland's greatest living playwright, winning an international reputation through such acclaimed works as *Translations* (1980) and *Dancing at Lughnasa* (1990). This collection of specially commissioned essays includes contributions from leading commentators on Friel's work (including two fellow playwrights) and explores the entire range of his career from his 1964 breakthrough with *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* to his most recent success in Dublin and London with *The Home Place* (2005). The essays approach Friel's plays both as literary texts and as performed drama, and provide the perfect introduction for students of both English and Theatre Studies, as well as theatregoers. The collection considers Friel's lesser-known works alongside his more celebrated plays and provides a comprehensive critical survey of his career. This is the most up to date and comprehensive study of Friel's work to be published, and includes a chronology and further reading suggestions.