



# **The Melodramatic Imagination: Balzac, Henry James, Melodrama, and the Mode of Excess**

*Peter Brooks*

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This text argues that melodrama is a crucial mode of expression in modern literature. After studying stage melodrama as a dominant popular form in the 1800s, the author looks at Balzac and Henry James, to show how these realist novelists created fiction using rhetoric and excess of melodrama.

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