

Salamon, Julie. *Wendy and the Lost Boys: The Uncommon Life of Wendy Wasserstein*. Penguin Pr: Penguin Group (USA). Aug. 2011. c.480p. photogs. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781594202988. \$29.95. THEATER

Salamon (*Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God, and Diversity on Steroids*) richly details the life of Wendy Wasserstein (1950–2006) in this first authorized biography. In it are all the big names of New York theater from the 1960s–70s, but don't read this book if it's gossip you're after. Read it because Wasserstein's life was full of drama and because her characters just begin to approach the truth of her story, one that deserves its own dramatization (let's start with how her Auntie Mame–type mother married her brother-in-law after the death of her husband). Certainly Wasserstein is important because she was the first woman playwright to win a Tony (later adding a Pulitzer Prize for *The Heidi Chronicles* to her accomplishments). But she was also the first playwright of her generation to give voice to women at a time when everything was changing. **VERDICT** You will laugh and you will, most assuredly, cry. Enthusiastically recommended. [See Prepub Alert, 1/31/11.]—**Larry Schwartz, Minnesota State Univ. Lib., Moorhead**