

Call for Papers / Presentations

No Way Out: Theatre as a Mediatized Practice

TaPRA Performance & New Technologies Working Group Interim Event

20th April, Birkbeck College, University of London

21st April, London South Bank University (LSBU)

Call deadline: 24 February

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

Prof. Matthew Causey (Trinity College) (20th April @ Birkbeck College) & Prof. Andy Lavender (Surrey) (21st April @ LSBU)

Book Launch & Wine Reception

Launch of *Intermediality and Spectatorship in the Theatre Work of Robert Lepage: The Solo Shows* (Aristita I. Albacan, 2016). Wine reception and conversation with Professor Christopher Balme (Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich) (21st April, LSBU)

Mediatization – the increasingly pervasive influence of new media technologies in the form of social institutions and ideological apparatuses on society, culture and consciousness since the late twentieth century – has radically shaped our everyday lives and relationships. Mediatization as a social and cognitive phenomenon has changed the way theatre and performance are produced, shaped, performed and perceived. This shift has led to a state where there is nothing left outside of mediatization. Hence, we argue, all contemporary theatre and performance today is mediatized.

The mediatized theatre and performance of the 21st century propose a practice, and offer ground for the development of a scholarship, in which ontological boundaries between media and performance, live and mediatized, analogue and digital, are no longer useful or even possible to consider. Mediatization lies within the aesthetic and political [un]consciousness of the works, whichever form or manifestation those choose to take. It is, directly or implicitly, embedded within their architectures, dynamics, and processes; we might even argue that, in some ways, mediatization *is* the works.

This two-day event seeks to investigate the processes and practices of mediatized theatre and performance in the 21st century with a particular interest in such questions as: How does the mediatized theatre and performance of the 21st century engage with digital culture and labour as, partly, products of capitalist ideology and economy? Is there potential for resistance (in the wider understanding of the term) within theatre as a mediatized practice? Or, to use Stiegler's analogy, can theatre and performance approach the digital as a *pharmakon* in order to engender social 'remedy', opening up critical spaces for resistance and dissensus in contemporary neoliberal culture?

We invite submissions for research papers and presentations that explore theatre/performance as a mediated practice. Submission can respond –but are not limited to – to the following areas of investigation:

- Aesthetics and politics of mediation in contemporary performance
- Forms and practices of resistance in contemporary performance
- Postdigital performance
- Alternative modes of writing for mediated theatre
- Text and immateriality in mediated theatre and performance
- Emerging critical mediaturgies
- New methodological approaches, and practice-as-research methodologies
- Mediated performance as a response to 'postpolitical' times
- Spectatorship and structures of power in mediated performance
- Digital (cheap) labour and performance
- Embodiment and materiality in mediated performance

Submissions can include papers, practice-as-research presentations and/or demonstrations, sharing of work in progress, provocations and other scholarly interventions.

Please send 250 word abstracts along with a short biography (50 words max) to m.chatzi@lsbu.ac.uk and s.ilter@bbk.ac.uk by February 24, 2017. Please include full details of any technical and other requirements for presentations with your submission. The exact format and duration of the presentations will be decided as appropriate to the work in agreement with the event conveners.

The Interim Event is Organised and Convened by
Dr Maria Chatzichristodoulou (LSBU) & Dr Seda Iltter (Birkbeck)

The TaPRA Performance and New Technologies WG Conveners are:
Dr Jem Kelly, Dr Christina Papagiannouli, Dr Jo Scott

This TaPRA Interim event is supported by the School of Arts and Creative Industries and the Centre for Research in Digital Storymaking at London South Bank University; the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre, Birkbeck Centre for Technology and Publishing; Vasari Research Centre for Art and Technology (Birkbeck College, University of London); Birkbeck Interdisciplinary Research in Media and Culture (BIRMAC), and Department of English and Humanities (Birkbeck College, University of London).

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