

CALL FOR PAPERS

Institute for Theatre Studies at the
University of Leipzig
21-22 October 2021

STUDENT SYMPOSIUM: THEATRE MEETS CULTURE

Observing theatrical practice from a transcultural perspective means talking about the people who encounter foreign cultures through and in the theatre. This includes those who stage foreign texts in the state theatres as well as those who tell their own cultural experiences in the independent scene. It includes Germans, who are influenced by the Peking Opera, as well as Brazilians, who appropriate the epic theatre. It also includes white Europeans, that are allowed to play Hamlet, as well as those who can only play Caliban.

Following the broad understanding of culture in the words of Stuart Hall, for whom “culture is a way in which we understand things and give them meaning”, it becomes immediately clear how complex and necessary this debate is. Questions to be addressed in this context could be: How are non-European cultures represented in German stages? Which strategies can be used in theatre to fight against racism and hatred of others? How is the context of European theatre practices transported to other countries? How do theatre makers deal with actresses and actors of different origins or cultural backgrounds?

The symposium is organized by bachelor, master and doctoral students from the Institute for Theatre Studies at the University of Leipzig and aims to present contributions from students of the University of Leipzig. With this we hope to broaden the discussion about theatre and transculturality and to come closer to a broader, more insightful and more respectful way of dealing with otherness.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS

You are warmly invited to contribute with an academic paper (15 min.) and/or a performance (max. 45 min.)

- The papers will be held in thematical panels bringing together the main focus of the lecturers and will be led by a moderator.
- The performance will be presented at the end of the day.

WHAT KIND OF CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED?

The contributions should by no means be limited to a closed theatre concept, but can cover all forms of theatrical or performative practices. E.g. dance, opera, performance art, circus, etc.

In addition to lectures from the field of theatre studies, we also look forward to contributions from cultural studies, gender and performance studies, critical whiteness research, otherness research, feminist theory, post- and decolonial perspectives and many other fields of research.

If you don't have a precise idea yet or need help with the preparation of your paper or performance, the team of the symposium will be happy to help you out in developing your contribution.

PROCEDURE

Abstracts for papers and performances can be formulated in German or English and submitted up to 1,500 characters in length by 02.08.2021 to the address theatre.meets.culture@gmail.com. You will be informed of the result of your submission on 10.08.2021.

Note: the symposium is being planned to happen in a hybrid format.