

Call for Contributions:

From 'Minority' to 'Transnational'? Gender, Subjectivity, and Aesthetics in Polish Drama, Theatre, and Performance

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Guest Editors: **Halina Filipowicz** (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA) and **Elwira Grossman** (University of Glasgow, UK)

We invite contributions to a special issue of *Polish Theatre Perspectives*, a refereed scholarly journal published in English by the Grotowski Institute in Wrocław.

The starting point for this project is the fascinating convergence now taking place between the language of gender theory and the language of performance studies. At the same time that gender theorists are coming to speak of gender as a 'style', an 'act', or a 'performance' that is in some sense external to identity, so too are scholars of theatre and drama increasingly making use of conceptual frameworks and interpretive categories developed in performance studies.

However, while the performative dimensions of theatrical enactments have become a major focus of critical investigation, the poststructuralist idea of scripted drama as a performance in its own right has received far less attention. Moreover, the concept of gender as a 'style', an 'act', or a 'performance' raises the questions: doesn't this concept risk obscuring or even sidelining the lived, experiential dimensions of gender discrimination in society? If gender is a 'style', an 'act', or a 'performance', how can we account for the persistence of discrimination on the basis of gender?

The project also seeks to address yet another widely held notion: the assumption that it is only in the twentieth century that gender has been conceptualized as a flexible and contingent category. That is to say, this project proposes to historicize the problem of gender by recognizing that the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries constitute a paradigmatic moment of transition in the Euro-American conceptualization of gender and sexual difference, the moment when an *older* version of gender identity as flexible and contingent was being displaced by the *modern* notion of sexual identity as an immutable fact of nature. As Thomas Laqueur (in *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*) and other scholars point out, the earlier relationship of sex (biology) to gender (culture) was inverted in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, as identity was increasingly seen to be rooted in biological sexual difference as opposed to cultural practice.

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The aim of this special issue is twofold:

- (1) to stimulate further enquiry, research, and critical reflection on the changing relationship of gender to sexuality and/or other categories of identity and subjectivity (such as nationality/ethnicity, social status, age, and religion);
- (2) to examine the intersections of gender, identity/subjectivity, and aesthetics.

We are interested in receiving gender-inflected studies of Polish drama, theatre, and performance in any period, including the twentieth- and twenty-first centuries.

While the special issue centres on the gender studies approach, interdisciplinary explorations are encouraged. Additionally, we hope to address the challenges that Polish drama, theatre, and performance face in the current globalised world.

Guest Editors **Halina Filipowicz** and **Elwira Grossman** invite proposals (minimum 750 words, plus a selected bibliography) from scholars, theatre practitioners, and translators for this special issue, scheduled to be published in October 2012.

Proposals (abstracts) may be submitted either in Polish or in English. Authors of accepted proposals will be invited to submit completed articles (5000-7000 words).

Completed articles will undergo a double-blind process of peer refereeing. Articles accepted for publication will be translated into English, if they were originally written in Polish.

For general guidelines for authors and details of the journal's peer review and copyright policies, please visit the section of the *Polish Theatre Perspectives* website entitled 'For Contributors', at www.ptpjournal.com.

Regarding the style and formatting used by *Polish Theatre Perspectives*, we ask authors to refer to the MHRA style guide, which is available at: www.mhra.org.uk/Publications/Books/StyleGuide/download.shtml.

Deadlines for this issue of *Polish Theatre Perspectives* are as follows (please note the **extended deadlines**):

Proposals (abstracts): **1 August 2011**

Notification of acceptance: **1 September 2011**

Publication date: **31 October 2012**

Editorial enquiries should be directed to the Guest Editors at: hfilipow@wisc.edu and E.Grossman@slavonic.arts.gla.ac.uk

Proposals (abstracts) and completed manuscripts should be sent as MS Word or RTF attachments to: submissions@ptpjournal.com