



Immersive Theatres: Intimacy and Immediacy in Contemporary Performance

From Josephine Machon

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Charting the rise of the immersive theatre phenomenon, this is the first survey of immersive theories and practices for students, scholars and practitioners of contemporary performance. It includes original interviews with immersive artists and examines key topics such as site-specific performance and immersive technologies.

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Editorial Review

Review

“This book comes at a potential tipping point for those of us who study and practise theatre. In the age of Web 2.0, immersive practice looks forward to a rich style of developing affective storytelling and connection via theatrical performance. At the heart of this book is an assessment of the state of theatre at the outset of an existential crisis, looking for ways to bring its audience back into the fold.” (William Lewis, *New Theatre Quarterly*, Vol. 31 (3), August, 2015)

Review

Machon's book provides a thorough, detailed exploration of "immersive" theater...Though Machon is expressive throughout, she is at her best when she uses a broad array of theoretical lenses - drawn from anthropology, architecture, literature, performance, geography, philosophy, and visual art - in order to delineate what makes the referenced theaters immersive, immediate, and intimate. This is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in contemporary theater. Essential reading' - *Choice*

'A uniquely comprehensive and valuable text that I would have no hesitation in recommending to my students. The critical commentary combines with the rich collection of interviews to make an excellent resource for undergraduates, postgraduates, researchers and general interest readers.' - Sita Popat, Chair in Performance and Technology, University of Leeds, UK

'A useful and very necessary book. It is the first monograph that is solely devoted to immersive theatre, a phenomenon of huge popularity, which has nonetheless given both critics and scholars a hard time to pin down and to conceptualise... this volume is very much apt to spark scholarly debate on immersive theatre and advance its scholarly and aesthetic understanding.' - *Journal of Contemporary Drama in English*

"Machon is deft in her acknowledgement that the practices she covers may, to some, fall outside the realm of 'theatre', but her contribution is important, attempting to establish and confirm a new form of theatrical enterprise outside the traditional model of passive spectatorship." - William Lewis, *New Theatre Quarterly*

About the Author

Josephine Machon is Senior Research Fellow in Contemporary Performance Practice at Middlesex University, London, UK. She is the author of (Syn)aesthetics: Redefining Visceral Performance (2009, 2011). Josephine is also the co-editor of Performance and Technology (2006), Sensualities/Textualities and Technologies (2010) and Identity, Performance and Technology (2012) and joint editor of the Palgrave Macmillan Series in Performance and Technology.

Users Review

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