



The British Grotowski Conference Schedule

Grotowski: Theatre and Beyond

University of Kent 11-14 June 2009

Jerzy Grotowski died in 1999, a marker of the end of a century of director-led investigations of the theatre. With Grotowski's passing, we lost one of the iconographic figures of 1960s and 70s countercultural experiments, and guiding inspiration of what theatre can do and be, and how we might go beyond it. 10 years on, we will ask if 21st century theatre and performance are the poorer without his 'poor theatre'. What remains of Grotowski's work today, in Britain especially, and in the English language in particular? How can we work beyond the practices, texts, documents and ideas he has left behind?

This conference in the UNESCO-designated 'Year of Grotowski' will celebrate Grotowski's enduring influence by bringing together key people to ask what riches he has left behind. It will assess his impact on British theatre especially, and invite international scholars and artists to reassess Grotowski today, 50 years after he and Ludwik Flaszen took over the tiny Theatre of 13 Rows in Opole, that later transformed into the world-renowned Laboratory Theatre.

The British Grotowski Conference will

- consider how British theatre practice, thinking and teaching has been inspired by Grotowski and his many collaborators, since the first contact with the Royal Shakespeare Company and Peter Brook in 1966
- examine how his work has shaped British physical theatre and actor training since
- present new materials, ideas and practices to the UK by bringing together international Grotowski scholars and artists and their works, including from The Grotowski Institute, Poland
- give space to postgraduates and practitioners to present their ideas and practices in a panel within the conference and a special forum afterwards
- introduce from the UK those who worked with Grotowski, his actors and peers, as well as those who have been deeply influenced by his work
- discuss and analyse Grotowski's ongoing importance in a multi-modal combination of roundtables, performances, exhibitions, screenings and papers

Grotowski: Theatre and Beyond Conference

11th-14th June 2009
University of Kent
Canterbury UK

Conference participants include **Ludwik Flaszen, Nitin Ganatra, Richard Gough, The Grotowski Institute (Wroclaw), Albert Hunt, Jenna Kumiega, Rena Mirecka, Zbigniew Osiński, Jim Slowiak, Ferdinando Taviani**

– see full programme at www.britishgrotowski.co.uk

Conference fees include:

- Talks
- Discussions
- Films
- Performances
- Exhibitions
- Drinks Reception
- Light Lunches
- Buffet Dinner
- Morning coffees
- Afternoon teas

Fees

Early booking discount before 31st April 2009: £160 waged / £120 concs

From 1st May 2009 fees are £200 waged / £150 concessions

Day rates: early £70, then £90

Registration forms available at www.britishgrotowski.co.uk

Enquiries to: britishgrotowski@kent.ac.uk

Telephone/ text to + 44 7538 786 808

A free **Postgraduate/Practitioners' Forum 'Grotowski: After - Alongside - Around – Ahead'** will run all day on Monday 15th June, contact Pablo pa67@kent.ac.uk

Conference Sponsors: Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Arts & Humanities Research Council, The Grotowski Institute, University of Kent School of Drama, Film & Visual Arts

Grotowski: Theatre and Beyond

We are delighted to have attending the conference these former members of the Teatr Laboratorium, subject to confirmation:

Ludwik Flaszen, Stefania Gardecka, Mieczysław Janowski, Maja Komorowska (tbc),
Rena Mirecka, Zygmunt Molik

Special guests include:

Krzysztof Bednarski (Poster designer for Grotowski's paratheatrical events), Marina Fabbri (Translator from Polish to Italian/Polish Theatre specialist), Francesco Galli (Theatre Photographer), Nina Soufy (Assistant to Peter Brook/Associate Editor *With Grotowski*)

THURSDAY 11 JUNE

WELCOME & POLISH PERSPECTIVES 1

Paul Allain (University of Kent), Ludwik Flaszen (Teatr Laboratorium), Jarosław Fret (The Grotowski Institute)

Followed by a screening of *'Sacriligious Rite, Abounding in Sorcery'*. *On Jerzy Grotowski's Theatre Laboratory* introduced by director Krzysztof Domagalik

FRIDAY 12 JUNE

POLISH PERSPECTIVES 2

The Teatr Laboratorium

Leszek Kolankiewicz (University of Warsaw), Zbigniew Osiński (University of Warsaw), Grzegorz Ziółkowski (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan)

Preceded by a screening of *Teatr Laboratorium* by Michael Elster

ITALIAN PERSPECTIVES

From Stanislavsky to the Workcenter

Marco De Marinis (Bologna University), Ferruccio Marotti ('La Sapienza' Rome University), Franco Ruffini (University of Rome 3), Mirella Schino (University of L'Aquila), Ferdinando Taviani (University of L'Aquila), Luisa Tinti ('La Sapienza' Rome University)

Chair: Maria Shevtsova

SATURDAY 13 JUNE

BRITISH PERSPECTIVES 1

Actors and Collaborators from Peter Brook's US

Panel Discussion on the RSC's workshop with Grotowski and Cieślak with Ian Hogg, Albert Hunt, Barry Stanton, Marjie Lawrence (tbc), Pablo Pakula (University of Kent),

Chair: Ken Pickering

Preceded by screened extract of *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*

BRITISH PERSPECTIVES 2

The Teatr Laboratorium, Paratheatre and After

Anna Furse (Goldsmiths/Theatre Director), Richard Gough (Centre for Performance Research), Jill Greenhalgh (University of Aberystwyth), Jenna Kumiega (author on Grotowski), Nick Sales, Bolesław Taborski (Polish-English Translator/Writer).

BRITISH PERSPECTIVES 3

Theatre of Sources and Art as Vehicle

Nitin Ganatra (actor in *Eastenders* as postman Masood), Simon Godwin (Theatre Director), Deborah Middleton (University of Huddersfield), Ian Morgan (actor with Piesń Kozła). Jonathan Grieve (Theatre Director), Jade Persis-Maravala (actor)

SUNDAY 14 JUNE

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Presentation by Virginie Magnat (University of British Columbia) on her project *Meetings with Remarkable Woman*

Murray Edmond (University of Auckland) on 'Grotowski in New Zealand'

Jairo Cuesta and Jim Slowiak (New World Performance Laboratory/University of Akron, Ohio) on their Routledge Performance Practitioners book on Grotowski

Presentation by Mike Pearson (University of Aberystwyth) on RAT Theatre

POSTGRADUATES' & PRACTITIONERS' PANEL

'BY INITIATION OR BY THEFT'

Convened by Pablo Pakula (UK) with Duncan Jamieson (UK), Adela Karsznia (Poland), and Ben Spatz (New York).

This panel will be continued on Monday 15 June with 'Grotowski: After – Alongside – Around – Ahead' to allow space for longer papers, discussion and practical presentations.

Film Screenings to include:

The Constant Prince with English subtitles

Teatr Laboratorium by Michael Elster

Molik's Body Alphabet by Giuliano Campo

With Jerzy Grotowski, Nienadówka, 1980 introduced by director Jill Godmilow (tbc)

Traces – a British Grotowski project and film

'*Sacrilegious Rite, Abounding in Sorcery*'. *On Jerzy Grotowski's Theatre Laboratory* introduced by director Krzysztof Domagalik

Book Celebrations

Grotowski's Empty Room, edited by Paul Allain, Seagull Press, 2009

The Laboratory Theatre and After, Ludwik Flaszen, edited by Paul Allain.

With Grotowski: Theatre is Just a Form, Peter Brook, edited by Georges Banu and Grzegorz Ziółkowski with Paul Allain

Voice and Body: Zygmunt Molik with Giuliano Campo

Performance

Stations by Jola Cynkutis and Khalid Tyabji

EXHIBITION

This exhibition aims to recall the spirit which animated the performances of Jerzy Grotowski's company from its beginning in the 1950s until the 1980s, covering the period of its productions and its subsequent development during the Paratheatre phase in the 1970s and beyond.

This will be the most comprehensive collection of material shown in the UK. It will include a half scale reconstruction of the set of *The Constant Prince*, costumes and props from different productions, as well as photographs from the lives of the laboratory members. It will also include a collection of original posters and leaflets from the post-theatrical phase. A special section, commissioned for this exhibition, will present new pictures by photographer Francesco Galli of the places and protagonists of the Theatre of Sources and of Paratheatre. Screenings will include films, videos and documentaries on or connected to Grotowski's work as well as a special film by Maurizio Buscarino. The exhibition will also be shown in Aberystwyth at the beginning of June in collaboration with the Centre for Performance Research, and possibly in Scotland and London. It will then travel to Paris in October.

We are also organising an exhibition of Maurizio Buscarino's celebrated photographs of *Apocalypsis cum Figuris*, with the collaboration of the Grotowski Institute, to be held in the Olivier Theatre Foyer at the National Theatre, London, from 16th August for 6 weeks.

These exhibitions are proudly supported by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, as part of the Polish Season in the UK 2009-2010



We are delighted to announce that former Teatr Laboratorium actress Rena Mirecka will be conducting a session of 'The Way' in Canterbury, Kent at the university from 16th-20th June. Open to everyone.

To apply for a place or to find out more please contact:

Stefania Gardecka

stefa@grotowski-institute.art.pl