



Performance and Justice: Representing Dangerous Truths Symposium at John Jay College

Performance and Justice: Representing Dangerous Truths is an interdisciplinary symposium on the interplay between broad definitions of performance and justice. The project brings together expertise in the performing arts, humanities, and social sciences.

At John Jay College, the term “justice” now includes definitions beyond the “criminal,” to encompass the academic, cultural, economic, environmental, international, legal, moral, poetic, political, racial, religious, social, and theoretical. For this project, we take “performance” to include film, dance, performance art, and theatre. The intersections between performance and justice are characterized by sites of social activism that lend themselves to sociological readings and analyses. Thus the symposium interrogates the ways justice is construed and constructed in various contemporary works of art and through the deployment of performance-based work in various traditional and non-traditional spaces. The social justice impact of such art is not limited to academia, but extends itself to the court-room, home, prison, streets, and the democratic project at large. Through the lens of dramaturgy as is understood in both the social sciences and performing arts, the symposium explores theoretical and practice-based negotiations of justice as informed by artists’ prerogatives and the work of social activists.

March 13, 14, &15

John Jay College of Criminal Justice
524 West 59th. Street New York, NY, 10019

Admission: Free

Registration: <http://performanceandjustice2013.eventbrite.com>

Schedule

March 13 – Day One

Registration 9:30
BlackBox Theatre

10:00—10:30
Opening Address
BlackBox Theatre

Opening Remarks by Kathleen Chalfant (Award Winning Actress,) and in dialogue with Karen Malpede (Playwright.)
“Making the Link between Performance and Advocacy.”

Session 1
10:45—12:15
Contemporary Polish Theatre – Justice in the Drama
BlackBox Theatre

Piotr Rudzki (Assistant Professor, University of Wroclaw and Dramaturg, Polski Theatre, Wroclaw, Poland)
“Performing Justice: Stanislawa Przybyszewska's *The Danton Case* directed by Jan Klata.”
Screening of select scenes from Polski Theatre’s production of *The Danton Case* (English Subtitles).

Lunch break

Session 2
1:30 – 3: 45
Representation of Truth in Film – Documentary Ethics
BlackBox Theatre

Barry Grant (Author and Professor, Brock University, Canada)
“This Great Democratic Society of Ours: Frederick Wiseman, Documentary Truth and Social Justice.”

With screening of Frederick Wiseman's *Titicut Follies*

Coffee break

Session 3

4:15—5:30

BlackBox Theatre

Contemporary Performance Art from Spain – Interrogating Intolerance

Eveline Topolska (Doctoral Candidate, Autonomous University of Barcelona)

“So ‘You dedicate yourself to justice, Mr. Whore:’ Angélica Liddell’s Protest against Europe’s Indifference.”

With screening of Liddell’s work.

Student Performance Presentations

8:00—10:30

BlackBox Theatre

“Staging Rape.” -- Five One Acts by John Jay College students inspired by their course, “Seeing Rape,” taught by Professors Shonna Trinch and Barbara Cassidy.

“Figures in Flight” – former detainees’ dance work presented by students of Professor Jacqui Young.

Day Two

Panel 1

9:30—11:30

1311N

Discovering and Representing Dangerous Truths

Melissa Wansin Wong – Moderator

Professor David Brotherton, “The Performance of Exile in Everyday U.S.A.”

Professor Lorraine Moller, “Theatre in Penitentiaries.”

Professor Shonna Trinch (part 1) and playwright/Professor Barbara Cassidy (part 2,) “Seeing Rape: Parts 1 & 2.”

Professor Jacqui Young, “Dancing at Sing Sing.”

Henry Chalfant, (documentary film-maker and photographer) “Creative Aspects of Street Culture.”

Nathaniel Nesmith (Ph.D., Columbia University) “Crime and Justice in the plays of August Wilson.”

Coffee Break

Panel 2

12:15—2:45

1311N

Challenging Truths: Politics and Responsibility

Barry Grant – Moderator

Professor Karen Malpede, “Writing the Iraq War, writing torture, writing climate change.”

Professor Seth Baumrin, “Performer as Public Servant: Fallacy or Duty?”

Professor Lyell Davies, “The Tyranny of Characters.”

Professor Fabiola Salek, “Representations of Torture in Film.”

Minou Arjomand, (Ph.D. Candidate, Columbia University,) “Restaging Justice: Peter Weiss's *The Investigation* in East and West Germany.”

Emily Hue (Ph.D. Candidate, New York University,) “Performances of Exile and Diasporic Excess: Pedagogy and Community Research ‘Post-Authoritarian’ Contexts.’”

Lunch Break

Panel 3

4:30 – 6:00

1311N

Theatre, Politics, and Post-Pinochet: a Conversation with Chilean Playwright Guillermo Calderón.

Award-winning playwright Guillermo Calderón in conversation with Jean Graham-Jones (Translator and professor, CUNY Graduate Center Ph.D. Program in Theatre).

With video selections of Calderón's productions.

Independent Artists Projects, NYC

8:00 – 10.30

BlackBox Theatre

Chaw Ei Thein (Burma/NYC) “Living Monuments.” With respondent Emily Hue.

Kymbali Craig and Samuel Encarnacion (Bailey’s Café, Brooklyn, NY,) “Skin Deep, Skin Tight.”

Racquel De Loyola (Philippines,) “Blinded.”

Margit Edwards and Seth Baumrin (NYC) “Subpoetics – raw material, roots, and ethnodramaturgy.”

Vernice Miller, Soraya Broukheim, and Winsome Brown (A Laboratory for Actor Training, Brooklyn, NY) “Experimental Theatre and Social Transformation.”

Day Three

2:00 – 4:00

BlackBox Theatre

Round-Table Discussion

Pedagogy for Performance and Justice Curriculum

Gathering of all participants

Distinguished respondents:

Professor Marvin Carlson, Distinguished Professor Doctoral Program in Theatre at CUNY
Graduate Center

Professor Maurya Wickstrom, Associate Professor of Theatre, The Graduate Center, and The
College of Staten Island

Professor Kimora, John Jay College Interdisciplinary Studies Program.

Professor Paola Hernández, University of Wisconsin

Lee Gabay, Ph.D. Candidate in Urban Studies, CUNY/GSUC

Aniko Scuzs, Ph.D. Candidate in Performance Studies, New York University



1 Racquel de Loyola in RESIST 2002; Photo: Mideo M. Cruz