

Theatrum Philosophicum: On the Inter-Zone of Philosophy and Performance

This panel aims to stage a zone of indetermination that will allow its participants to move freely between the disciplines of Philosophy and Performance Studies. Finding the theory/practice distinction inadequate to perform either the reality of their working lives or the complexity of their examples, the panelists will construct a territory in-between within the disciplines of philosophy and performance in order to put concepts such as performativity, presence, creation, time and movement to work. The panelists have come together on the basis of their shared interest in the process philosophies of Henri Bergson and Gilles Deleuze – key thinkers of indeterminacy and movement - but their papers are also linked by their concern with the particular performance of thought. Thought as performative event will be variously conceived in terms of the role of the example as a fiction spun from ordinariness” 2;(Goulish); Bergson’s concept of the élan vital as dramatised metaphysics (Mullarkey); or the thinking bodies of both actor and spectator in theatrical presence (Cull). In all cases, seeing this particular ‘inter-zone’ anew involves an active subversion of the separation of subject and object and an affirmation of the processual nature of the in-between.

Participants:

Laura Cull (Department of Drama, University of Exeter, UK),
Matthew Goulish (MFA and BFA Writing Programs at The School of the Art
Institute of Chicago, USA),
John Mullarkey (Department of Philosophy, University of Dundee, UK)