

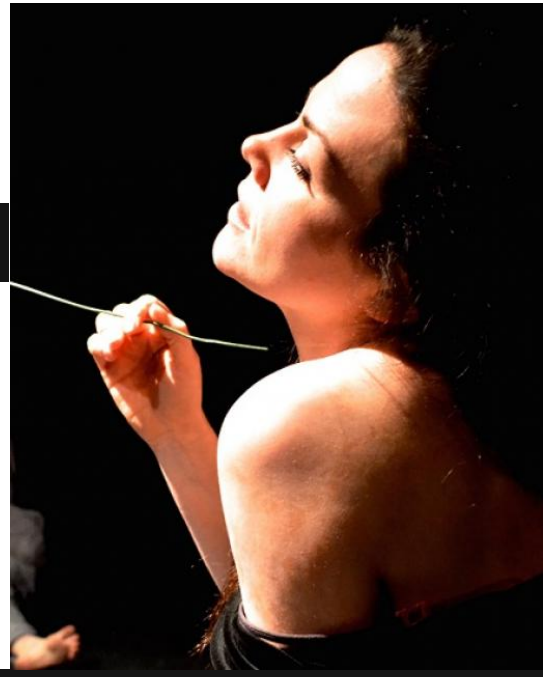
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PROJECT TITLE

Character under Erasure: A Practical Exploration of the Application of Realist Strategies for Character-creation in Postdramatic Paradigms

SUPERVISOR

Dr. Gareth White

QUALIFICATIONS

MA Text and Performance Studies, King's College University of London and RADA

BA (Hons) English Language and Literature, University of Leeds

ABSTRACT

My thesis explores how realist strategies for creating character can be applied to postdramatic paradigms for performance-making. This practice-led research investigates the relationship between 'truthful' characterisation in dramatic realism and a preference for the 'real' in late twentieth/early twenty-first century performance-making. By focusing on the director's work in guiding an actor/performer's practice within these paradigms, the research proposes a reconfiguration of the relationship between the two aesthetics. The thesis argues for a re-evaluation of the historical lineage, considering whether dramatic realism has developed *into*, rather than simply been rejected in favour of, the 'real' in performance. Drawing on a Stanislavskian approach to creating a role, within a postdramatic paradigm for performance-making, the research poses the question: how can realist strategies for creating characterisation serve the actor/performer in the development of work that is neither tied to the dramatic text, nor fully allied to a realist aesthetic?

PROFILE

Since completing my MA in Text and Performance Studies in 2002 I taught Drama and Theatre Studies at secondary level and in adult education. My teaching practice led to the development of my research project, which focuses on actor training and rehearsal and performance strategies for the actor and the role of the director in devising processes. I am particularly interested in adaptation in devising and the relationship between contemporary performance practices and the critical contexts of postmodernism and postdramatic theatre. I am a recipient of an AHRC studentship and am currently completing the final year of my practice-based doctoral research. I am a Visiting Lecturer at RCSSD on the MA Music Theatre.

PRACTICE

March 2016 Director, *The Seagull, Or Why Masha Always Wears Black*, Camden People's Theatre

September 2015 Director, *Three Sisters*, Collisions Festival, The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (RCSSD)

October 2014 Director, *The Seagull, Or Why Masha Always Wears Black*, Collisions Festival, RCSSD

October 2013 Director, *Counting Her Dresses*, Collisions Festival, RCSSD

October 2012 Director, *Are You Really Feeling It?* Collisions Festival, RCSSD

October 2011 Director, *The Letter*, Collisions Festival, RCSSD

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2014 'In Praise of Acting', Intersections, RCSSD

2014 'Are You Really Feeling It', Not A Dry Eye In The House: Tears In Performance, Paris-Sorbonne Université

2013 'I Agonises Me', Intersections, RCSSD

TEACHING AREAS / EXPERTISE

Actor training

Devising

Stanislavsky

Critical contexts