

# THINKING THROUGH TRAGEDY AND COMEDY

A SYMPOSIUM ON  
PERFORMANCE PHILOSOPHY  
AND THE FUTURE OF GENRE

4–5 DECEMBER 2014  
ICI BERLIN



**ICI Berlin, Christinenstr. 18-19, Haus 8, 10119 Berlin**

All panel discussions and keynotes are free and open to the public (no pre-registration required). Seminar sessions work with pre-circulated papers and require prior registration.

For more information, please visit [www.tragedycomedy.com](http://www.tragedycomedy.com)

The symposium has been organized by the Performance Philosophy Network's Working Group "Tragedy and Comedy – Genres of Dramatic Thought": Ramona Mosse (Freie Universität Berlin), Anna Street (University of Paris IV – Sorbonne), and Maïté Marciano (Northwestern University).



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014

09:30 – 10:00 Registration and Coffee

10:00 – 11:00 **Welcome**

Joachim Küpper *Dahlem Humanities Center* Christoph Holzhey *ICI Berlin*

**Introduction**

Does Performance Philosophy Necessarily Pose the Question of Genre?

Ramona Mosse *Freie Universität Berlin* Maité Marciano *Northwestern University* Anna Street *Sorbonne*

11:00 – 12:30 **Seminar A** Suffering/Laughter

Moderator: Alice Lagaay *Bremen University*

Laughter as a Phenomenon of Presence Konrad Bach *Freie Universität Berlin*

Comic Agents. Alfred Gell's New Paradigm of Comedy Anna Kawalec *John Paul II Catholic University Lublin*

To Be Ludic Or Sacrificed In Performance? On The Ludic Mode Of Thinking Alice Koubova *Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic*

After *Catastrophe*: From Beckett to Žižek Gregor Moder *University of Ljubljana*

**Seminar B** Universal/Particular

Moderator: Ramona Mosse *Freie Universität Berlin*

The "Uncomely Comedy": Celebrating the Divided Subject in Contemporary British Drama Julien Alliot *Sorbonne*

Tragedy and the Persistence of Semblance Karoline Gritzner *Aberystwyth University*

Comedy, Tragedy and Radicalism in Edward Bond's *Under Room* Kate Katafiasz *Newman University*

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00 **Seminar A** Suffering/Laughter

Moderator: Russell Ford *Elmhurst College*

The Philosopher Farts and Clowns: Humor and Wisdom in Javanese Puppet Theater Preciosa de Joya *ICI Berlin*

Rococo Laughter: Dancing and Laughter in Jiri Kilian's *Birth-Day* Katja Vaghi *University of Roehampton*

How Funny Is It Being A Plank Of Wood: The Terrible Comedy Of Cricot2 Theatre Daniel Watt

*Loughborough University*

**Seminar B** Violence/Ethics

Moderator: Kristin Flade *Freie Universität Berlin*

Exceptionalism, Schizophrenia, Artaud: On Judgment Kéline Gotman *King's College London*

In Patagonia? Some Notes for a Future Discussion of Beckett's *Catastrophe* Misha Twitchin *University of London*

Performative Evolutions: Romeo Castellucci's *Tragedy Endogonia* Audronė Žukauskaitė *Vilnius University*

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:30 **Panel Discussion** How Do Tragedy And Comedy Make/Unmake The World?

Moderator: Tony Fisher *Royal Central School of Speech and Drama*

Comedy, Philosophy, and the Paradox of Expecting the Unexpected Rupert Glasgow *Independent Scholar*

The Function of Tragedy Joachim Küpper *Freie Universität Berlin*

The Tragic Vision and the Comic Vision John Morreall *College of William and Mary*

"The Real State of Sublunary Nature": Can Tragedy and Comedy Be So Neatly Divided? Jennifer Wallace

*Cambridge University*

18:30 – 19:00 Coffee Break

19:00 – 20:30 **Keynote Lecture**

Theatre – Tragedy – Thought Hans-Thies Lehmann *Goethe-Universität Frankfurt/Main*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014

09:30 – 10:00 Coffee

10:00 – 12:00 **Seminar A** Universal/Particular

Moderator: Tony Fisher *Royal Central School of Speech and Drama*

Of Comfort No Man Speak: Tragedy, Indifference, Consolation James Corby *Malta University*

Sea-Change of Comedy: Shakespeare's *Tempest* and Hegelian Dialectics Katrin Trüstedt *Erfurt University*

Thinking Through the Senses in Tragedy Paul Monaghan *University of Melbourne*

The Necessity of a Figure Mark Robson *Dundee University*

**Seminar B** Violence/Ethics

Moderator: David Savran *CUNY Graduate Center*

"He Who Does (Not) Learn Also Dies" – Christoph Menke on Tragedy and the Learning Play in Bertolt Brecht

and Heiner Müller Florian Becker *Bard College Berlin*

Caesura of Tragedy – Historicity as Critical Process Matthias Dreyer *Goethe Universität Frankfurt/Main*

On Watching Tragedy: *Black Medea* and the Chorus Rachel Fensham *University of Melbourne*

Marx' Shakespeare and Shakespeare's Marx: Reading *Anglist* (1862) Andrew Parker *Rutgers University*

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 14:30 **Book Presentations**

*Comedy – An Anthology of Theory and Criticism* (Palgrave Macmillan)

Magda Romanska *Harvard University*

*Performance Philosophy Book Series* (Palgrave Macmillan)

Alice Lagaay *Bremen University* Freddie Rokem *Tel Aviv University*

*Interweaving Performance Cultures, Upcoming Publications*

Erika Fischer-Lichte *Freie Universität Berlin* Torsten Jost *Freie Universität Berlin*

14:30 – 16:00 **Keynote Lecture**

The Rebirth of Tragic Theatre out of the Chorus Erika Fischer-Lichte *Freie Universität Berlin*

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:30 **Panel Discussion** How Do Comedy And Tragedy Perform Philosophical Thought?

Moderator: Alice Lagaay *Bremen University*

Deleuze on Tragedy and Comedy Russell Ford *Elmhurst College*

The Comical as Paradigm of the Experience of Modernity Nikolaus Müller-Schöll *Goethe-Universität Frankfurt/Main*

The Philosophical Focal Point Where Tragedy and Comedy Converge Freddie Rokem *University of Tel Aviv*

The Asylum Seeker in Greek Tragedy Stephen Wilmer *Trinity College Dublin*

18:30 – 19:00 Coffee Break

19:00 – 20:30 **Keynote Lecture**

Comic versus Tragic Catharsis Simon Critchley *The New School*

20:30 – 21:30 Closing Remarks and Reception