Performance and Culture: Cities, Embodiments, Technologies

A conference at the University of Malta, hosted by the School of Performing Arts

7-9 March 2018

Programme
Conference Theme

The fifth Annual Conference of the School of Performing Arts (University of Malta) aims to generate debate on possible ways of articulating the relationship between Performance and Culture. Two inherently fluid phenomena, Performance and Culture resist fixity and limiting definitions when treated separately, and even more so when considered in tandem. Instead of looking at definitions, contemporary thinking about Performance and Culture might be better served through the application of critical and conceptual frames, which offer a clear focal point while allowing for the integration of multiple perspectives, approaches, and understandings.

The conference in Malta invites scholars, practitioners, and cultural theorists to consider three such critical frames around which to reflect on Performance and Culture, namely Cities, Embodiments, and Technologies. Its aims are partly fueled by the 2018 European Capital of Culture, which next year will be held in Valletta, the capital city of Malta, and Leeuwarden, in the Netherlands. Capitals of Culture attract international attention to the way a particular city defines its identity, also within the framework of performance.

The conference will include presentations exploring (but not limited to) the following questions and themes:

- How do the suggested three frames inform our understanding of performance and culture?
- In what ways do these frames interact together?
- How do institutional standards relate to artistic creativity and production?
- What possible historical approaches define interaction between performance and cultural practice and discourse? How are they relevant to contemporary performative initiatives in the public sphere?
- Which other frames invoke a relationship between performance and culture? How do these dialogue with cities, embodiments, and technologies?

Conference Conveners:

Prof. Vicki Ann Cremona,
Chair, School of Performing Arts,
Head of Department, Dance Studies,
Associate Professor, Department of Theatre Studies,
vicki.cremona@um.edu.mt

Dr Stefan Aquilina
Area Director of Research and Internationalisation, School of Performing Arts,
Lecturer, Department of Theatre Studies,
stefan.aquilina@um.edu.mt

Revolution - SPA Collective Performance
Directed by Douglas Comley
7, 8, 9 March 2018 (19:00)
Venue: Valletta Campus Theatre
Booking and info: stefan.sacco@um.edu.mt
Programme

WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH

8:30-9:00  Registration

9:00-9:10  Opening

9:10-10:30  Keynote Speech (Venue: Aula Magna)

Prof. Maria Delgado, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London
Performing Barcelona: Cultural Tourism, Geography, and Identity

Chairperson: Mario Frendo, Department of Theatre Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta

10:30-11:00  Coffee Break

11:00-12:30  Panel 1  Capitals of Culture (Venue: Aula Magna)

Chairperson: Theresa Vella, International Institute of Baroque Studies, University of Malta

Sarah Whatley, Centre for Dance Research, Coventry University, UK
City Moves: Dancing in/on/through/above the City

Stephanie Bonnici, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta
Did Culture become a Burden? Gentrification, the Urban Crisis and Perceptions of Culture

Erica Charalambous, Centre for Dance Research, Coventry University, UK
Post-mortem Documentation Approaches and Interdisciplinary Exchanges in Pafos2017, a European Capital of Culture City

11:00-12:30  Panel 2  Performance and Technology (Venue: Lecture Room 6)

Chairperson: Clive Zammit, Department of Cognitive Science, Faculty of Media & Knowledge Sciences, University of Malta

Susan Sentler, School of Art and Theatre, LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore
Image, Embodiment, and the Technological Trigger

Sophie van den Bergh, Theatre Studies Department, Ghent University, Belgium
‘A Place like Another’: Technology and Territory in Sachli Gholamalizad’s (Not) My Paradise

Katie Beswick, College of Humanities, Department of Drama, University of Exeter, UK
Litefeet and the Democratising Potential of Social Media Platforms

12:30-13:30  Lunch

13:30-15:00  Panel 3  Performance Examples (Venue: Aula Magna)

Chairperson: Emilia Fiegel, Actress/Performer - Associated with the Grotowski Institute in Poland
Helen Freear-Papio & Ellen Lokos, College of the Holy Cross, Massachusetts, US
*Embodiment/Disempowerment and Community/Isolation: Fuenteovejuna on Stage at The College of the Holy Cross*

María Peredo Guzmán, Choreomundus International Master
*Embodiments of Migracy*

Lucia Piquero, Department of Dance Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta
*Interaction between Choreographic Research and a City’s Summer Festival: in Oviedo, Beyond and Through*

13:30-15:00  **Panel 4  Encounters between Performers and the City** (Venue: Lecture Room 6)

Chairperson: TBA

Sara Accettura, Department of Dance Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta
*Junior Dance Company Malta and Bari: How Performance becomes a Reflection of Culture*

Rūta Mažeikienė, Faculty of Arts, Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
*In Dialogue with City: Exploration of Identity of Place in Site-Specific Performance*

Ina Pukelytė, Department of Theatre Studies, Faculty of Arts, Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
*Theatres and States: Trickeries, Loyalties, Services*

15:00-15:30  **Coffee**


Chairperson: Davinia Galea, School of Performing Arts & Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture, University of Malta

Frederick Aquilina, Department of Music Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta
Philip Ciantar, Department of Music Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta
John Galea, Department of Music Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta
Michael Laus, Department of Music Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta

15:30-17:00  **Panel 6  Performance and Identity** (Venue: Lecture Room 6)

Chairperson: Norbert Bugeja, Mediterranean Institute, University of Malta

Maria Gaitanidi, Independent Scholar and Practitioner
*Poetic Selves in Dark Cities*

Annelies Van Assche, Performing Arts & Media, Department of Art Studies, Ghent University, Belgium & Center for Sociological Research, KU Leuven, Belgium
*A 'Bohemian' Ethic: Lifestyle Artists and the City*

Dawn Adrienne-Saliba, Department of Archaeology & Centre for English Proficiency, University of Malta
*Prehistoric Embodiments of Culture: Malta’s Neolithic Performance Spaces and Ritual Technologies*
THURSDAY 8 MARCH

9:00-10:30  Keynote Speech (Venue: Aula Magna)

Prof. Kevin Dawe, School of Music and Fine Art, University of Kent, UK
*City-Village Dynamics and the Performance of Cretan Music Culture in the 1990s*

Chairperson: Philip Ciantar, Department of Music Studies, School of Performing Arts,
University of Malta

10:30-11:00  Coffee

11:00-12:30  Panel 7  *Babel Re-Play: Accounts from Nomads across Six Cities*
(Venue: Aula Magna)

Chairperson: Vicki Ann Cremona, Department of Theatre Studies, School of Performing Arts,
University of Malta

Georges Pfruender, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, Switzerland
Cynthia Kros, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
David Peimer, Edge Hill University, UK

11:00-12:30  Panel 8  *Performance Crossovers* (Venue: Lecture Room 6)

Chairperson: Stefan Aquilina, Department of Theatre Studies, School of Performing Arts, University
of Malta

Brandon Shaw, Department of Dance Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta
*Dance (v) Science: Concerns for Scientific Studies of Social Dancing*

Margherita De Giorgi, Kobe Design University, Kobe, Japan
*Move/Enjoy/Stop/Repeat: How Dance Performance Re-plays Multicultural Networks and the Pop Imagery*

Laura Vorwerg, Royal Holloway, University of London
*Fragmented Bodies, Fractured Wholes: Embodiment and Instrumentality*

12:30-13:30  Lunch

13:30-14:30  Plenary (Venue: Aula Magna)

Sofiane Ouissi, Dream City, Tunisia
*A Free Body Inventing Its Own Gesture*

Chairperson: Vicki Ann Cremona, Department of Theatre Studies, School of Performing Arts,
University of Malta

14:30-15:00  Book Launch (Venue: Aula Magna)

*Carnival and Power: Play and Politics in a Crown Colony* (Palgrave Macmillan)

Vicki Ann Cremona, Department of Theatre Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta
15:00-15:30  Coffee

15:30-17:00  **Panel 9  Performance and Resistance** (Venue: Aula Magna)

Chairperson: Michael Zammit, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, University of Malta

Malaika Sarco-Thomas, Department of Dance Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta

*CI in the City: Performance Cultures of Navigation and Critique*

Victoria Lucas, Sheffield Hallam University & University of Central Lancashire, UK

*Digital Resistance: An Exploration of Subversive Place-making*

Micheal T. Smith, Polytechnic Institute, Purdue University, US

*Putting Technology Under Erasure: The (im)possibility of the 21st Century Flâneur*

15:30-17:00  **Panel 10  Performance and Cities** (Venue: Lecture Room 6)

Chairperson: Lucia Piquero, Department of Dance Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta

Adrian Palka, School of Media and Performing Arts, Coventry University, UK

*World Wide Windows (wWw) – Cultural Cities and the Precession of the Projected-urban-real*

Joanna Mansbridge, Department of English, City University of Hong Kong

*Building Memory, Branding Hong Kong: The Crossover Dramaturgy of Zuni Icosahedron*

Sanjay Kumar, Department of History, Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary

*Embodying Cultures in Indian Urban Spaces: Re-imagining Performance*
FRIDAY 9 MARCH

9:00-10:30  Keynote Speech (Venue: Aula Magna)

Prof. Ann Cooper Albright, Department of Dance, Oberlin College and Conservatory, Ohio, US

Falling into Memory

Chairperson: Brandon Shaw, Department of Dance Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta

10:30-11:00  Coffee

11:00-12:30  Panel 11  Hanoi, Boston, and Malmö: Co-Performing Embodied Civic Identities with Old and New Technologies (Venue: Aula Magna)

Chairperson: John Galea, Department of Music Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta

Stefan Österjö, Lund University, Malmö Academy of Music, Sweden
Nguyễn Thanh Thủy, Lund University, Malmö Academy of Music, Sweden

Soundscaping Hanoi: Intercultural Collaboration as Politically Informed Theatre

David Kjar, Roosevelt University, Chicago College of Performing Arts, US

‘My Roots Are in Boston, Not Somewhere Else’: Hearing Old Technology as Civic Identity

Sean Ellis Hussey, Roosevelt University, Chicago College of Performing Arts, US

Refugees Living in Malmö: Connecting Cultures Through Generative-Technological Music Discourse

Respondent:
Ulrike Präger, University of Konstanz, Germany

11:00-12:30  Panel 12  Performance Histories (Venue: Lecture Room 6)

Chairperson: Marco Galea, Department of Theatre Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta

Jamie Korsmo, Université Paris-Saclay & Georgia State University in the United States

The Grand Tour: Performing Culture across Henry James’ Europe

Kathrina Farrugia-Kriel, Faculty of Education, Royal Academy of Dance, London, UK

Dancing in the Twilight of Empire: Princess Nathalie Poutiatine (1904 - 1984) and her Ballet Productions at the Royal Opera House in Valletta (1930-1939)

John M. Andrick, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, US


12:30-13:30  Lunch
13:30-14:30  **Plenary** (Venue: Aula Magna)

Dorita Hannah, Aalto University Arts, Finland & UTAS College of Creative Arts, Australia  
*Performative Screens & Urban Encounters*

Chairperson: Frank Camilleri, Department of Theatre Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta

14:30-15:00  **Book Launch** (Venue: Aula Magna)

*Interdisciplinarity and the Performing Arts: Contemporary Perspectives* (Malta University Press)

Edited by Stefan Aquilina, Department of Theatre Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta & Malaika Sarco-Thomas, Department of Dance Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta

15:00-15:30  **Coffee**

15:30-17:00  **Panel 13 Performance Documentation and Intertextuality**  
(Venue: Aula Magna)

Chairperson: Joan Abela, Department of Legal History and Methodology, Faculty of Law, University of Malta & Notarial Archives Rehabilitation Project

Marc Kosciejew, Department of Library, Information, and Archive Sciences, University of Malta  
*The Mutual Supplementarity of Performance and its Documentation*

Joseph Dunne, City, University of London & Lyn Robinson, Library & Information Science at City, University of London  
*The DocPerform Project*

Marta Botana, Universidad Europea de Madrid & Superior Dance Conservatory of Madrid  
*The Intertextuality of Body: Time and Landscape*

15:30-17:00  **Panel 14 Applied Performance** (Venue: Lecture Room 6)

Chairperson: James Corby, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Malta

Chijioke Uwah, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of Fort Hare, East London Campus, South Africa  
*Health Communication and Culture in South Africa: Examining the Critical Position of Cultural Norms and Values in HIV/AIDS Communication in South Africa*

Anton Rey, Zurich University of the Arts, Switzerland  
*YOUR FACE OR MINE? A Research on the Outskirts of Identity, based on Actor & Avatar, an Interdisciplinary Project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation*

Michael Richardson, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland  
*Deaf Culture and Performance: Embodied yet Invisible*
17:00-17:30 Conclusion

Final discussion moderated by:

**Dorita Hannah**, Aalto University Arts, Finland & UTAS College of Creative Arts, Australia & **Vicki Ann Cremona**, Department of Theatre Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta

**Announcement of next year’s conference theme:**

SPA Annual Conference 2019 (13, 14, 15 March)  
'Hybrid Practices: Methodologies, Histories, and Performance’

Organised by **Performance 21: Twenty-First Century Studies in Performance** – one of the research groupings within the School of Performing Arts.

**Conveners:**

**Prof. Frank Camilleri**, Department of Theatre Studies, School of Performing Arts, University of Malta  
**Prof. Paul Allain**, Department of Drama and Theatre, School of Arts, University of Kent