

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PARTICIPANTS

University of Kent (Canterbury, UK) June 2009

‘By initiation or by theft’

- a group panel -
and

Grotowski: After – Alongside – Around – Ahead

- a daylong symposium -

2009 is the UNESCO-designated ‘Year of Grotowski’ commemorating the 10th anniversary of Jerzy Grotowski’s death, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Teatr Laboratorium’s foundation, and recognising Grotowski’s enduring influence upon theatre and performance practice. Between 11th and 14th June 2009 The British Grotowski Project (www.britishgrotowski.co.uk) will host the international conference **Jerzy Grotowski: Theatre and Beyond** at the University of Kent (Canterbury, UK). In relation to this we are currently seeking expressions of interest from postgraduate students, and emerging scholars and practitioners to participate in two events.

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Firstly, we are organising a group panel entitled *By initiation or by theft* which will take place during the conference itself. For this panel we invite proposals for brief presentations (10 minutes) that will serve as a stimulus for group discussion. These presentations may involve documentation of emerging practice as well as theoretical and historical lines of inquiry, and should address some or all of the following issues:

- *How do Grotowski’s practice and/or writings impact on practitioners and researchers who did not work with him directly?*
- *How is his work extended, adapted, rejected, promoted, transformed, continued, and struggled with by practitioners working in different contexts?*
- *How do we reckon with/address the ‘family’ of practices and practitioners working ‘after Grotowski’, particularly the collective endeavours of his former collaborators?*

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Secondly, we are organising a symposium entitled *Grotowski: After - Alongside - Around - Ahead* which will take place on 15th June 2009, and will serve as an epilogue to the conference. This is the only event planned for the ‘Year of Grotowski’ that specifically focuses on an emerging generation of scholars, researchers and practitioners. The aims of this unique event will be:

- To provide a platform for a new generation of postgraduate students, emerging scholars and practitioners to present their research and encounter each others’ work.
- To develop and expand upon issues raised during the conference.
- To explore new approaches and original ways of articulating, conceptualising, analysing and criticising the practice of Jerzy Grotowski and his collaborators.
- To investigate the intersections with practical and discursive fields of research that have been shaped, influenced and/or engendered by the work of Jerzy Grotowski and his collaborators.

The structure of this symposium will reflect the relationships and productive tensions between the following areas: *organicity/precision; memory/impulse; text/song; movement/action; theatre/ritual; intercultural/transcultural; tradition/research; sacred/profane*. We invite proposals for academic papers, reflections on practice, work demonstrations, provocations, and creative responses lasting between 15 and 45 minutes. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- *How — as performers, directors, writers, students, practitioners, researchers — do we ‘meet’ Grotowski’s creative practice and articulation of practice? What approaches, vocabularies, or modes of critique allow for such a meeting?*
- *What practical and/or theoretical tools arising from this field are of interest to those currently engaged with performance practice, performance research, and performance studies?*
- *How do we ‘read’ the texts and practical testimonies of Grotowski and his collaborators today?*
- *How have the interventions of Grotowski, his collaborators, and those who draw on their work impacted on the various fields of their research? How are Grotowski’s insights and challenges being adapted to work in diverse locations and contexts?*
- *What possibilities exist for the productive exploration of Grotowski’s research through interaction with other disciplines such as anthropology, philosophy, or psychology?*

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Participants are invited to present at either or both of the above events. Please send a description (no longer than 300 words) of each proposal for the panel and/or the symposium and a brief CV by **16th February 2009** to Pablo Pakula pa67@kent.ac.uk

(Please be aware that there are some logistical limitations on performances and the presentation of practical work. Initial, informal enquiries regarding practice, and the length and possible formats of proposals are very welcome)

Organising committee: Pablo Pakula (UK), Duncan Jamieson (UK), Adela Karsznia (Poland) and Ben Spatz (New York). With the assistance of Professor Paul Allain (UK) and Dr Giuliano Campo (Italy).

