

Multicultural Shakespeare: Translation, Appropriation and Performance

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From the Editor

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From the Editor

This volume of *Multicultural Shakespeare: Translation, Appropriation and Performance* opens with an interview with Professor Bryan Reynolds. Professor Reynolds is Claire Trevor Professor and Chancellor's Professor at the University of Irvine, California, where he holds the Claire Trevor Professor endowed chair. An internationally famous American critical and performance theorist, Professor Reynolds invented and developed the transversal poetic research methodology. This methodology combines social theory and performance aesthetics. Shakespeare also constitutes an important area of his research interests. A modern incarnation of a Renaissance scholar, Professor Reynolds is also a playwright, director, and performer. In addition, he co-founded the Amsterdam-based Transversal Theater Company, which consists of American and European artists. The Company has produced a number of his works and gained international recognition.

The interview published here followed the "Experiment in Drama, Theater, Film and Media" conference organized at the University of Łódź in October 2017, at which Professor Reynolds delivered a plenary lecture on the theory and practice of current experiments in theater. It was not his first visit to Łódź; we have also had the honor of hosting him as a University guest on other academic occasions. Moreover, we had the pleasure of hosting his Company while they presented his play *Blue Shade* in one of the local theaters (2007). The Company has also performed the professor's plays in other Polish cities (Warsaw, Gdańsk, Wrocław, Szczecin, Chorzów, Legnica) as well as at various international festivals and meetings in, e.g., Romania, Netherlands, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Germany, Lebanon, Kenya, and the USA.

The list of Professor Reynolds' publications is astounding. He has authored seven monographs and co-authored ten collections of essays—all published by prestigious academic publishing houses. Several of his plays have also appeared in print.

He has held visiting professorships at the University of London in Drama, the University of Amsterdam in Theater Studies, Utrecht University in Theater Studies, the University of Cologne in American Studies, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main in American Studies, the University College Utrecht in Arts and Humanities, the University of California, San Diego in Theater, Literature, and Cognitive Science, the American University of Beirut in English, the University of Tsukuba in Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nairobi in the Department of Literature,

Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt in Communications, the University of Lorraine in Arts, Sciences, and Business Management, INSEEC Business School (L'Institut des hautes études économiques et commerciales) Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon in Marketing, among others. Additionally, he has taught at the Deleuze Camp at Schloss Wahn, at the University of Cologne, Germany and at the Grotowski Institute in Wrocław, Poland.

Professor Reynolds has been honored for his academic achievements by a variety of institutions and organizations, including the International Center for Muslim and non-Muslim Understanding (MnM), the University of South Australia, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

He is known and appreciated for being very modest and kind, always willing to share his knowledge and expertise. I feel honored to have known him for many years, and I am grateful for his visits to the University of Łódź.

The essays in the ensuing part of this volume are written by scholars from the USA, Finland, Egypt, Greece, Singapore, and Poland and cover a variety of topics. They reflect the continued worldwide interest in Shakespeare studies, thereby revealing the bard's formative role of in the constitution of international cultures. The unifying feature of these essays is the appropriation of his works to address local and global problematics present in both theoretical reflections and popular culture.

The essays create an awareness of the compound complexity of the intercultural dynamics of Shakespeare's works. They serve as vital sources for social, political and cultural trajectories, from the political and ideological dissemination of his plays in translations, theater, mass media and digital culture to current cultural theories that are permeated with his powerful universal presence.

Krystyna Kujawińska Courtney