Joan Littlewood’s Theatre

Joan Littlewood was one of the most visionary and influential theatre directors of the twentieth century. Drawing on extensive archival research and detailed performance histories, and paying close attention to wider political and cultural forces, this innovative study presents a fresh examination of Littlewood’s treatment of the politics of war, Renaissance plays, marginalised communities and popular culture in productions such as *Oh What a Lovely War*, *A Taste of Honey* and *Richard II*. The book breaks new ground with a sustained examination of Littlewood’s para-theatrical activity that centred on her ambitious plans for the Fun Palace – a multifaceted cultural centre – and her numerous playground projects for young people. Alert to critical thinking on ethics, citizenship, cultural politics, class and space, *Joan Littlewood’s Theatre* will deepen and extend knowledge and understanding of the innovative theatrical, cultural and community-based practices generated by Littlewood throughout her career.

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Acknowledgements

The process of writing this book has been a long one and along the way I have been helped by numerous organisations and individuals who deserve my thanks. At the top of my list sits Murray Melvin, actor and archivist, at the Theatre Royal Stratford East. I would like to thank him, and his accomplice, Mary Ling, for the care and dedication they have shown in creating the theatre’s archive and for granting me unrestricted access to the archive and permission to quote from manuscripts and to reproduce many of the photographs contained in this volume. More than this, I thank them for their help, hospitality, conversation and wonderful sense of fun whenever I visited the beautiful Theatre Royal. Thanks also to the staff and archivists at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin for granting access to and permission to reproduce photos and to quote from the Michael Barker Collection relating to Joan Littlewood and Theatre Workshop. I would particularly like to thank Katherine Feo for her efficient response to my queries and requests. I’m grateful to Peggy Seeger for allowing me access to the Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger Archive held at Ruskin College, Oxford, and to Valerie Moyes who arranged my visit there. I would also like to thank staff at the British Library manuscripts department for their help during my visits to read material held in the Lord Chamberlain’s Collection. Thanks to Jeff Vickers, Carole Hopkin and the Dudley Studio Collection for granting permission to reproduce photographs and Karen Fisher for her work getting me copies of photos from the Theatre Royal collection.
Acknowledgements

Several people kindly gave up their time to offer constructive feedback on chapters of this manuscript and I am extremely grateful to Colin Chambers, Jim Davis, Maria Delgado, June Favre, Helen Nicholson, Janelle Reinelt, Juliet Rufford and Liz Schafer in this regard – the book has been improved by their input. Shelley Ayliffe, Ben Fowler and David Coates were efficient and helpful research assistants. In various ways the following people have also helped in the process of developing, researching and writing this book: Richard Boon, Maggie Gale, Ben Harker, Laura Jukes, Katie Klassen, Derek Paget, Liese Perrin, Peter Rankin and Barbara Wheeler-Early. I would also like to thank Vicki Cooper and Rebecca Taylor at Cambridge University Press for their advice, patience and support in getting this book to publication and David Bradby for his advice and help in getting the book published for his series. I also owe a huge debt of thanks to Richard Perkins who helped me more than he will know in tracking down last-minute references in his usual calm and wise way. The late Clive Barker did a great deal to ease my path as a researcher and I will always be grateful to him and sorry that he will not get to see the final result.

Research visits for this book were funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) through the Small Grant in the Creative and Performing Arts Scheme and the book was completed with assistance from the AHRC’s Research Leave Scheme. I am most grateful to the AHRC for its support of this project. I have also received support from the University of Warwick’s Humanities Research Fund and the Research Development Fund to help my attendance at conferences and to enable the inclusion of illustrations. Thanks also to the University of Warwick for granting me study leave and to my colleagues in the School of Theatre, Performance and Cultural Policy Studies for their support and general brilliance.

This book could not have been completed without the unwavering support of my family, especially Geoff Willcocks, who has learnt when to steer clear and when to offer tea – this is a difficult line to tread and I truly appreciate him for treading it with love and care over many years. For providing endless distractions and reasons to be doing anything other than writing I thank my son Corin – you have kept me sane and I dedicate this book to you.