What are the challenges to theatre and the purposes of performance in an ecologically threatened world? Is there a future for theatre as an ethically and politically alert art through environmental action? How might ecological understandings refigure the natural virtues of theatre and performance? *Theatre Ecology* gets to grips with such questions by investigating an eclectic cosmopolitan sample of environments and performance events, in theatres and beyond. It proposes that performance is a peculiarly twenty-first-century addiction at the root of global warming. Encountering this prospect head-on, it searches for pathological hope in historical theatre at the end of its tether and rumbles the contemporary paradigm of performance for signs of eco-sanity. Recognising the future is always before its time, *Theatre Ecology* is a paradoxical tract for survival past the final ecological era.

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THEATRE ECOLOGY

Environments and Performance Events

BAZ KERSHAW
This book is dedicated in memoriam to

Clive Barker
Wilfred Bosence
Dwight Conquergood
Vera Gottlieb
Glynn Wickham
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Although this book has only my name on its cover the research essential to its evolution involved a gamut of interlocking creative, scholarly and professional collaborations. The connections between them were manifold and often it was not at all clear where one was ending and another beginning. I was sustained by the energy of countless contributions, some of course of which I was not aware, but all of which surely I was privileged to receive. So the generosity of numerous friends, colleagues and acquaintances influenced what follows here and it is in no way possible to acknowledge them all, even though I exclude people, projects and events that I imagine did not directly influence *Theatre Ecology*. I offer gratitude to all whose names are listed below, and by no means *just* for what you are listed. Many will easily see themselves in others.

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