Rainer Werner Fassbinder and the German Theatre

Using extensive and untapped archival material as well as a series of in-depth interviews with Fassbinder's main theatre associates, this book offers commentary on and insights into Fassbinder's plays, his dramaturgies and staging practice. David Barnett helps to unlock the much-discussed theatricality of Fassbinder's films by showing its many concrete sources. The first study of Fassbinder's work in the theatre, as a playwright and director, this book gives a full contextualization of his work within the upheavals of its times. Readers are introduced to the cultural history of the West German theatre in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Radicalism in society meets experiment on stage as Fassbinder emerges from the cellar theatre scene of Munich, co-founds the antiteater, and is then integrated into the most subsidized theatre in Europe, before being offered his own theatre to run for one fateful season.

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Cambridge University Press
0521855144 - Rainer Werner Fassbinder and the German Theatre
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Acknowledgements

This book would not have been possible without the help and generosity of a great deal of people. In terms of Brecht’s ‘erst kommt das Fressen, dann kommt die Moral’ (roughly: ‘eat first, ask questions later’), I am most grateful to the Humboldt Foundation, who funded me as a Research Fellow for a year’s stay in Germany. I also thank the School of Music and Humanities at the University of Huddersfield for granting me a year’s sabbatical and the money to pay for teaching cover.

Juliane Lorenz and Annemarie Abel at the Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation have also been exceptionally helpful in opening up and guiding me through the holdings of their archive on many occasions. I would also like to thank all those who gave up their time to allow me to interview them: Harry Baer, Karlheinz Braun, Rudolf Waldemar Brem, Margit Carstensen, Irm Hermann, Hans Hirschmüller, Kurt Hübner, Yaak Karsunke, Gunter Krää, Renate Leiffer, Juliane Lorenz, Joachim von Mengershausen, Peer Raben, Günther Rühle, Jörg Schmitt, Hanna Schygulla, Heide Simon, Volker Spengler, Eberhard Wagner and Gerhard Zwerenz.

There is also a host of Fassbinder’s associates, archivists and others who have provided me with materials which have greatly deepened my understanding of Fassbinder’s work in the theatre (and I repeat some of the names already mentioned with pleasure): Wilfried Beege (photographer), Karlheinz Braun (publisher), Rudolf Waldemar Brem, Corinna Brocher (Rowohlt), Denis Calandra (University of South Florida), Margit Carstensen, Frank Fellermeier (assistant to Peer Raben), Steffi Friedrichs (Theater Bremen), Stefan Hemler (LMU, Munich), Irm Hermann, Hans Hirschmüller, Yaak Karsunke (critic),
Acknowledgements

Frau Katzidef [Bundeswehr-Archiv], Brigitte Klein [Theatersammlung Frankfurt], Renate Leiffer [independent assistant director], Juliane Lorenz, Dr Neumann [Stadtarchiv Bochum], Peer Raben, Günther Rühle, Ulrike Schiedermair [Deutsche Akademie der Darstellenden Künste], Bruno Schneider [independent film-maker], Dr Schneider [Stadtarchiv Frankfurt/Main], Heide Simon, Gerrit Thies [Kinematek, Berlin] and Eberhard Wagner.

I should also like to thank all those at CUP who have supported this project. Dr David Bradby has encouraged me ever since I submitted my first proposal, and Dr Vicki Cooper, Alena Dvorakova and Becky Jones have overseen the production process with great care. A final note of gratitude goes to Dr Geoff Westgate, who took the time to read the whole manuscript and offer a vast array of keen insights that had clearly passed me by while writing.