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978-0-521-12074-6 - Theatre Ecology: Environments and Performance Events

Baz Kershaw

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THEATRE ECOLOGY

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.

BAZ KERSHAW is Professor of Performance in the School of Theatre, Performance and Cultural Policy Studies at the University of Warwick. He is the author of *The Politics of Performance: Radical Theatre as Cultural Intervention* (1992) and *The Radical in Performance: Between Brecht and Baudrillard* (1999), and editor of *The Cambridge History of British Theatre, Volume 3: Since 1895*, which was nominated for the Theatre Book Prize in 2005. He has extensive experience as a director and writer in research-oriented radical and community-based performance, including projects at the London Drury Lane Arts Lab., with Welfare State International, plus many freelance creative collaborations.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521120746

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First published 2007
 Reprinted 2009
 This digitally printed version 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Kershaw, Baz.
 Theatre ecology: environments and performance events / Baz Kershaw.
 p. cm.
 Includes bibliographical references and index.
 ISBN 978-0-521-87716-9 (hardback)

1. Performing arts—Political aspects. 2. Performing arts—Environmental aspects. I. Title.

PN1643.K48 2007
 792—dc22

2007032996

ISBN 978-0-521-87716-9 hardback
 ISBN 978-0-521-12074-6 paperback

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This book is dedicated *in memoriam* to

Clive Barker

Wilfred Bosence

Dwight Conquergood

Vera Gottlieb

Glynn Wickham

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Acknowledgements

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.

Thanks to the editors of journal issues and books where earlier versions of these ecologically oriented essays were first published: Martin Banham, Clive Barker, Marin Blažević, Harry J. Elam, Gabriella Giannachi, Loren Kruger, Jane Milling, Richard Schechner, Maria Shevtsova, Nigel Stewart, Simon Trussler, Joanne Tompkins, and to their anonymous peer reviewers, for improving my originals.

Thanks to the organisers of research gatherings who invited me to present earlier drafts and closely related papers: Christopher Balme, Susan Bennett, John Bull, Victor Emeljanov, Helen Gilbert, Jules Gilson-Ellis, John Golder, Richard Gough, James Harding, Franklin Hildy, Dennis Kennedy, Pirkko Koski, Heike Roms, James Stredder, Joakim Stenshäll, Meike Wagner, Lois Weaver, Phillip Zarrilli, and to all their support staff who lifted the burden of organisation so we could share time together.

Thanks to the conference plenary audiences and session participants who provided always stimulating feedback, but especially to the following joint presentation panel members: Steve Bottoms, Carol Burbank, Laura Cameron, Matthew Goulish, Sonja Kuftinec, David Matless, Gay McAuley, Alan Read, Janelle Reinelt, Greg Whelan.

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Thanks to past departmental colleagues for stimulation, support and everyday sustenance through inevitable ups and downs: Adrian Harris, Gerry Harris, Andrew Quick, Stephanie Sims; Sara Jane Bailes, Pete Bailie, Günter Berghaus, Liz Bird, George Brandt, Fiona Chapman, Colette Conroy, Jon Dovey, Debora Gibbs, Angela Groves, Carson Jarvis, Mark Leake, Katie Mack, Jacqueline Maingard, Peter Milner, Lisa Murphy, Colin O'Neil, Helen Piper, Kay Russell, Mark Sinfield, Sarah Street, Kate Withers, and to the porters, cleaners and maintenance staff who laboured to make our working lives more bearable. And to my new colleagues and the support staff at the University of Warwick, thanks for a hopeful future.

Thanks to all staff at the University of Bristol Theatre Collection past and present, especially Sarah Cuthill, Jo Elsworth and Rachel Hassall, for all your friendship, research support and skill in the sourcing of images.

Thanks for six years of challenges and excitement to the research associates and administrators, management group, advisory group and all 600-plus practitioner–researchers who participated in PARIP (Practice as Research in Performance): Ludivine Allegue Fuschini, Laura Cull, Rosanne Jacks, Angela Piccini, Caroline Rye; John Adams, Christopher Bannerman, John Ellis, Simon Jones, Carol Lorac, Robin Nelson, Barry Smith, Janet Thumim, Martin White, and especially all the symposium and conference delegates. Also to Jacqueline Martin and the International Federation of Theatre Research (IFTR) Performance as Research Working Group, many thanks. And to the many non-academic colleagues in the UK who made institutional support systems work to extend the research agenda so that I can 'legitimately' thank another group of collaborators next.

Thanks to all my creative collaborators in four practice-as-research productions who gave their considerable talents to ecological events well suited to the stimulation of audiences: all the remarkable Bristol University and Circomedia Circus Academy students who worked on *The Iron Ship* and *Green Shade* projects; to Gemma Brooks, Misri Deitch Day, Sara Easby, Yvonne Elston, Rona Fineman, Sonika Jain, Bim Mason, Peter Metelkamp, Jennie Norman, Amanda Price, Jean Rath, Jonathan Smiles, Rod Terry, Jane Tooze, Mike Wright, plus Mike Cannings and all ss *Great Britain* staff, and for the generosity of field-research respondents in Australia and the UK, especially Alan and Jim Crompton; to Andy Bate, Maya Cockburn, Sue Doolin, Alistair Ganley, Neil Puttick, Harmeet Sehambi, Simon Taffel, Pam Tait, Drew Yapp, plus Simon Garrett, Jo Gippes, Xanthe Littledale, Debbie Ward and all

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staff at Bristol Zoological Gardens, as well as Sue Hill at the Eden Project and the feedback focus group members. Special gratitude indeed is owed to my closest creative collaborators John Marshall, Sue Palmer and Sandra Reeve.

Thanks are due in abundance to the creative and scholarly colleagues and friends not already mentioned who also contributed directly to the evolution of this book, sometimes in the 'back to the future' way that makes the retrospect so interesting: Sruti Bala, Chris Baugh, Sir John Berringer, Anna Birch, Nerrida Blair, Herbert Blau, Larry Bogad, David Bradby, Jackie Bratton, John Russell Brown, Matthew Causey, Franc Chamberlain, Una Chaudhuri, Enzo Cozzi, Maria Delgado, Paul Dwyer, Peter Eckershall, Penny Farfan, Rachel Fensham, Alan Filewood, Helen Freshwater, Jen Harvie, Wallace Heim, Dan Gretton, Ronald Grimes, Robin Grove-White, Adrian Heathfield, Julie Hollege, Shannon Jackson, Tony Jackson, John Jordan, Sir John Kingman, Anja Klöck, Andy Lavender, Carl Lavery, Jon McKenzie, Jocelyn McKinnon, Michal Kobialka, James Marriott, Susan Melrose, Julian Meyrick, Graeme Miller, Mike Pearson, Brian Pickering, Tom Postlewait, Nicholas Ridout, Freddie Rokem, Wilmar Sauter, Kerry Schaefer, Ed Scheer, Simon Shepherd, John Somers, Bodi Sowanda, Bronislaw Szerszynski, James Thompson, Nigel Thrift, Jane Trowell, John Urry, Mick Wallis, Michael Walton, Claire Waterton, Martin Whelton, Nicholas Whybrow, Rod Whistler, and in particular to Helen Nicholson, Sophie Nield, Dan Rebellato and all the participants of the London Beyond Postmodernism Symposia, 2005–6.

Thanks also to the several hundred undergraduate students who have challenged me to greater intellectual clarity and imaginative effort in the Radical Theatre, Democratising Performance and Ecologies of Performance courses, as well as to the remarkable students of the MA in Cultural Performance, all at the University of Bristol.

To the participants in 'Performance/EcoAction' and to co-tutors at International Postgraduate Programmes, Performance and Media Studies, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz. And especially to my recent and current postgraduate research students for stretching my sense of research possibilities: Robert Cross, Dafydd James, Guduz Kalic, Sally Mackie, Nicholas Rowe and Michael Balfour, the last particularly for springing open the distributed archive.

Many thanks for support from a smart and highly professional production team at Cambridge University Press, including Margaret Berrill, Liz Davey, Karl Howe and editor Rebecca Jones. And to the expert

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anonymous readers who offered challenging and spot-on advice: Maggie Gale and Rik Knowles. But my most fulsome thanks here must go to Vicki Cooper, who has championed this project well beyond the call of duty. Many Cambridge University Press authors more eloquent than I have chorused her praises before, so what can I best do but turn to paradox for an overriding truth that might amuse her. An adaptation of Baba Ram Dass: If you think you're finished, there can be no end in sight.

Finally, before the formal acknowledgements come up like cinema credits, there are two small groups of people I must risk embarrassing because their contributions beggar the language of thanks. The first are both colleagues and firm friends: Jim Davis, Tracy Davis, John Fox, Viv Gardner, Sue Gill, Robert Hole, Graham Ley, David Watt. The second is my immediate family. Logan has been a model rock star in waiting. Eleanor kindly interrupted her life to source the book's illustrations professionally with aplomb. Thank you, Eleanor. Dr Gill Hadley prepared the index with high professionalism and provided utterly indispensable sustenance of many kinds consistently *and* abundantly when it really mattered most to all four of us. For that, no amount of gratitude is adequate.

And so to the bone-fide artists without whom, perhaps, there would be no theatre ecology to speak of. The ones I write about, dead and living, cannot be thanked enough, as hopefully there's still more of the wonderfully awkward stuff to come. But I must gratefully acknowledge four of them directly. Earth First!, Patrick Hughes, Tess de Quincey and Stelarc have been gracious and generous in providing pictures as well as inspiration. Likewise particular thanks are due to Deborah Snyder at Global Ecotechnics for supplying Biosphere II illustrations, and Rebecca Pilbeam at Out of Joint Theatre for organising the *Shopping and Fucking* image. For further picture credits see the List of Illustrations.

I apologise to any who might have expected to be named above and that I have overlooked, or who are owed formal acknowledgement and are omitted from what follows. Please contact Cambridge University Press for potential inclusion in any future editions. Of course, any errors herein are all my own.

Direct financial support towards the project was provided by: the University of Warwick Humanities Research Fund, the University of Bristol Faculty of Arts Research and Conference Funds, the University of Bristol Alumni Fund, the University of Newcastle (New South Wales) Research Fund, the UK Arts and Humanities Research Board (for *The Iron*

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Ship and *Mnemosyne Dreams*), the British Academy Overseas Conference fund, and the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, in the form of a small grant for *Being in Between* and a Research Leave Grant which was essential to completing this book. Significant in-kind support was also contributed by the ss *Great Britain* Project, Bristol Zoological Gardens, and related agencies. Research presentations outside the UK listed in the Appendix were supported financially by: in Australia – University of Newcastle; University of New South Wales, Sydney; University of Queensland, Brisbane; Monash University, Melbourne; in North America – University of Maryland, USA; Northwestern University, Illinois, USA; University of Calgary, Canada; in Europe – Academy of Dramatic Art, Zagreb, Croatia; Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland; Riksteatern, Stockholm, Sweden. I am very grateful to all these sources of support for this project.

Acknowledgements for the reuse of writings previously published are due as follows for: ‘George Formby and the Northern Sublime’, published in *Extraordinary Actors*, reprinted with permission of Exeter University Press; ‘Oh for Unruly Audiences! Or, Patterns of Participation in Twentieth-Century Theatre’, published in *Modern Drama* under the auspices of the Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama, University of Toronto, reprinted by the permission of University of Toronto Press Incorporated (www.utpjournals.com); ‘Discouraging Democracy: British Theatres and Economics, 1979–1999’ and ‘Curiosity or Contempt: On Spectacle and the Human’, published in *Theatre Journal*, reprinted with the permission of the Johns Hopkins University Press; ‘Radical Energies in the Ecologies of Performance’, published in *Frakcija: Performing Arts Magazine*, reprinted with the permission of Centar za dramsku umjetnost/Centre for Dramatic Art, Zagreb, Croatia; ‘Ecologies of Performance: On Theatres and Biospheres’, published in *Performing Nature: Explorations in Ecology and the Arts*, reprinted with permission of Peter Lang AG, European Academic Publishers, Bern (www.peterlang.com); ‘The Theatrical Biosphere and Ecologies of Performance’, ‘Dramas of the Performative Society: Theatre at the End of its Tether’ and ‘Performance Studies and Po-chang’s Ox? Steps to a Paradoxology of Performance’, published in *New Theatre Quarterly*, Cambridge University Press; ‘Eco-Activist Protest: the Environment as Partner in Protest?’ published in the *Drama Review*, MIT Press Journals.

During the period of this book’s gestation sadly five colleagues died who, to different but significant degrees, influenced its nature. Vera Gottlieb was Emeritus Professor of Drama at Goldsmiths College,

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Acknowledgements

University of London, and a scholar of Russian and British Theatre of high distinction; Glynn Wickham was founding and Emeritus Chair of Drama at the University of Bristol and a pioneering historian of European early-modern theatre who established theatre studies in British universities; Clive Barker was a teacher and scholar of popular and practical performance at the University of Warwick, formerly a member of Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop and subsequently an international proponent of radical workshop methods for training performers; Dwight Conquergood was Professor of Performance and former chair of the Department of Performance Studies at Northwestern University, Illinois, a practitioner-scholar committed to community-based participatory performance and a major figure in establishing performance studies as a global 'anti-discipline', as he called it; last but by no means least Wilf Bosence was founder and Head of the Department of Drama at Rolle College, Exmouth, Devon, and a theatre director of notable talent who appointed me to my first permanent post as a lecturer. I was very lucky and highly privileged to have known in varying degrees all five. *Theatre Ecology* grew in the fertility of the widening field that they, together with numerous others, collectively nurtured. It is dedicated to them.