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978-0-521-19464-8 - Goethe's Faust: Theatre of Modernity

Edited by Hans Schulte, John Noyes and Pia Kleber

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## GOETHE'S *FAUST*

Faust has been called the fundamental icon of Western culture, and Goethe's inexhaustible poetic drama is the centrepiece of its tradition in literature, music and art. In recent years, this play has experienced something of a renaissance, with a surge of studies, theatre productions, press coverage and public discussions. Reflecting this renewed interest, leading Goethe scholars in this volume explore the play's striking modernity within its theatrical framework. The chapters present new aspects, such as the virtuality of Faust, the music drama, the modernization of evil, Faust's blindness, the gay Mephistopheles, classical beauty and horror as phantasmagoria, and Goethe's anticipation of modern science, economics and ecology. The book contains an illustrated section on *Faust* in modern performance, with contributions by renowned directors, critics and dramaturges, and a major interview with Peter Stein, director of the uncut 'millennium production' of Expo 2000.

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## *Contents*

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>List of contributors</i>	viii
<i>Preface</i>	xi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiii
Introduction	
<i>Hans Schulte</i>	I
PART I MODERNITY	15
1. <i>Faust</i> – today	
<i>Albrecht Schöne</i>	17
2. Mephisto and the modernization of evil	
<i>Rolf-Peter Janz</i>	32
3. Mephisto is the devil – or is he?	
<i>Peter Huber</i>	40
4. ‘Schwankende Gestalten’: virtuality in Goethe’s <i>Faust</i>	
<i>Ulrich Gaier</i>	54
5. Amnesia and anamnesis in Goethe’s <i>Faust</i>	
<i>Wolf-Daniel Hartwich</i>	68
6. Magicians of modernity: Cagliostro and Saint-Simon in Goethe’s <i>Faust II</i>	
<i>Hans-Jürgen Schings</i>	78
7. The blind Faust	
<i>Eberhard Lämmert</i>	94
8. From <i>Faust</i> to <i>Harry Potter</i> : discourses of the centaurs	
<i>Gisela Brude-Firnau</i>	113

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
9.	Mistra and the Peloponnese in Goethe's <i>Faust II</i> <i>Wilhelm Blum</i>	129
10.	Goethe and the grotesque: the 'Classical Walpurgis Night' <i>Angela C. Borchert</i>	138
11.	Re-defining classicism: antiquity in <i>Faust II</i> under the sign of the Medusa <i>Ernst Osterkamp</i>	156
12.	Diabolical entrapment: Mephisto, the angels and the homoerotic in Goethe's <i>Faust II</i> <i>W. Daniel Wilson</i>	174
PART II THEATRE		195
13.	Goethe's <i>Faust</i> : theatre, meta-theatre, tragedy <i>Martin Swales</i>	197
14.	<i>Faust</i> beyond tragedy: hidden comedy, covert opera <i>Dieter Borchmeyer</i>	209
15.	Theatricality and experiment: identity in <i>Faust</i> <i>Jane K. Brown</i>	235
16.	Rhetorical action: <i>Faust</i> between rhetoric, poetics and music <i>Helmut Schanze</i>	253
17.	Directing <i>Faust</i> : an interview <i>Peter Stein</i>	267
18.	A contradictory whole: Peter Stein stages <i>Faust</i> <i>Dirk Pilz</i>	280
19.	Re-thinking and staging Goethe's <i>Faust</i> at the State Theatre Stuttgart 2005–6 <i>Jörg Bochow</i>	293
20.	Strehler's <i>Faust</i> in performance <i>Laura Caretti</i>	306
	<i>Select bibliography</i>	324
	<i>Index</i>	330

## *Illustrations*

15.1	Bernardo Strozzi, 'Old Woman at the Mirror' (1615)	<i>page</i> 245
15.2	Cesare Ripa, 'Prudence' in <i>Iconologia</i> (1758–69)	246
17.1	'This is my wager.' – 'Here's my hand.' (Photograph from the Peter Stein production, Hanover–Berlin–Vienna, 2000–1, © Ruth Walz)	269
17.2	Helena and Phorkyas in Sparta. (Photograph from the Stein production, 2000–1, © Ruth Walz)	271
17.3	Mountain Gorges: the heavenly spiral. (Photograph from the Stein production, 2000–1, © Ruth Walz)	276
19.1	The three young men as Faust. (Photograph from the Stuttgart production, 2005–6, © Staatstheater Stuttgart)	295
19.2	Margarete's attempt at an abortion. (Photograph from the Stuttgart production, 2005–6, © Staatstheater Stuttgart)	298
19.3	Mephistopheles and the Faust chorus. (Photograph from the Stuttgart production, 2005–6, © Staatstheater Stuttgart)	301
20.1	Prologue in Heaven. (Photograph from the Strehler production, 1989–91, © Luigi Ciminaghi, Piccolo Teatro, Milan)	308
20.2	Faust and Helena's veil. (Photograph from the Strehler production, 1989–91, © Luigi Ciminaghi)	314
20.3	'My lovely young lady, may I venture . . .?' (Photograph from the Strehler production, 1989–91, © Luigi Ciminaghi)	319

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Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

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 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

*List of contributors*

ix

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## *Preface*

In the summer of 2000, the World Exposition in Hanover, Germany, presented visitors with an extraordinary experience: Peter Stein's uncut production, in twenty-three hours of stage time, of one of the most massive pieces of world literature ever written. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe dedicated over sixty years of his life (1749–1832) to the composition of *Faust, a Tragedy* in two parts. The production, which moved on to Berlin and Vienna over the next two years, was timely indeed: many other productions followed. *Faust* was rediscovered not only as a vital document of Western cultural memory, but also for its unsurpassed prophetic power. A major symposium in Toronto, Canada, and the development of this book were meant to take these discussions to the next, international, stage.

Obviously, there are numerous translations of Goethe's *Faust*. Unless cited otherwise, our default translation is that of Stuart Atkins, *Faust I and II*, Cambridge, MA: Suhrkamp, 1986. We have tried to maintain the flow of the text by keeping the original German to a minimum. What we have lost in philological precision we have gained in readability. But we allowed Goethe's full poetic text to stand in the longer, indented quotations. This poetry counts among the most sublime in the history of European literature, and the richness of its music and associations remains ultimately untranslatable.

Our thanks are due to all those who invested much patience, thought and energy into making this book possible – most of all, our contributors from Europe and North America, who were more than understanding throughout the long editorial obstacle course. Sadly, Wolf-Daniel Hartwich passed away before this book could go to press; his untimely death has meant the loss of a talented scholar.

We thank the team of stylists put together by John Noyes who corrected and refined the English of our German authors, and Deirdre Vincent, Nina Peters and John Koster, who translated some of our most demanding essays. Our thanks go also to Peter Stein, who graciously granted a substantial

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

xii

*Preface*

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## Abbreviations

- BA *Goethe*, ed. Siegfried Seidel *et al.*, 22 vols., Berlin: Aufbau, 1965–78. *Berliner Ausgabe*.
- FA *Sämtliche Werke, Briefe, Tagebücher und Gespräche*, ed. Dieter Borchmeyer *et al.*, 40 vols., Frankfurt: Deutscher Klassiker Verlag, 1985–. *Frankfurter Ausgabe*.
- FK *Faust. Kommentare*, ed. Albrecht Schöne, Frankfurt: Deutscher Klassiker Verlag, 1994.
- FT *Faust. Texte*, ed. Albrecht Schöne, Frankfurt: Deutscher Klassiker Verlag, 2005. Our default edition.
- GA *Gedenkausgabe der Werke, Briefe u. Gespräche*, ed. Ernst Beutler, 24 vols., Zurich: Artemis, 1948–60. *Gedenkausgabe*.
- GG *Goethes Gespräche: Eine Sammlung zeitgenössischer Berichte aus seinem Umgang: Auf Grund der Ausgabe und des Nachlasses von Flodoard Freiherrn von Biedermann*, ed. Wolfgang Herwig, 5 vols., Zurich: Artemis, 1965–87.
- HA *Werke*, ed. Erich Trunz, 14 vols., Hamburg: Wegner, 1948–60. *Hamburger Ausgabe*.
- LA *Die Schriften zur Naturwissenschaft*, ed. Dorothea Kuhn *et al.*, 20 vols., Weimar: H. Böhlau Nachfolger, 1947–. *Leopoldina-Ausgabe*.
- MA *Sämtliche Werke nach Epochen seines Schaffens*, ed. Karl Richter *et al.*, 26 vols., Munich: Hanser, 1985–. *Münchener Ausgabe*.
- P Anne Bohnenkamp. ‘... das Hauptgeschäft nicht ausser Augen lassend’: *Die Paralipomena zu Goethes Faust*, Frankfurt am Main: Insel, 1994.
- WA *Goethes Werke*, 143 vols., Weimar: H. Böhlau, 1887–1919. *Weimarer Ausgabe*.