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978-0-521-87716-9 - 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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This book is dedicated *in memoriam* to

Clive Barker

Wilfred Bosence

Dwight Conquergood

Vera Gottlieb

Glynn Wickham

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