

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Women Theatre Makers

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FEMINIST IMAGINING IN POLISH AND UKRAINIAN THEATRES

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-54951-6 — Feminist Imagining in Polish and Ukrainian Theatres
Ewa Bal, Kasia Lech
Frontmatter
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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009549516

DOI: 10.1017/9781009549561

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009549561

First published 2025

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

ISBN 978-1-009-54951-6 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-54952-3 Paperback
ISSN 2634-2391 (online)
ISSN 2634-2383 (print)

Additional resources for this publication at www.cambridge.org/Ewa

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Feminist Imagining in Polish and Ukrainian Theatres

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DOI: 10.1017/9781009549561
First published online: August 2025

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Abstract: This Element explores how women theatre artists in Ukraine and Poland – separately and together – respond to their dynamically shifting sociopolitical realities after the early 2010s events: the pro-European Maidan Revolution in Ukraine and the traditionalist, anti-European governance in Poland, both of which ignited mass women's protests. Engaging with diverse works – new writing, adaptations of classics, musicals, puppetry, and devised productions – Feminist Imagining features artists that explore the connections between patriarchy-rooted violence, gendered nationalism, women's reproductive rights, and decolonial critique. These underpin their transcultural and intersectional alliances and their proposals for concrete scenarios that redefine the past, present, and future, creating specific feminist imaginaries and epistemologies situated in Central-Eastern Europe. The Element captures the feminist turns in Polish and Ukrainian theatres, highlighting the practices of women artists from the so-called Eastern Europe, whose voices have long been nationally and internationally silenced.

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/EWTM_Bal_abstract

Keywords: Ukrainian theatre, Polish theatre, feminist utopias, politics of care, feminist histories

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ISBNs: 9781009549516 (HB), 9781009549523 (PB), 9781009549561 (OC)
ISSNs: 2634-2391 (online), 2634-2383 (print)

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