

Call for papers

International Conference

Liquid Stories: practices of adaptation and rewriting in contemporary theatre

6-7 October 2023

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iași, Romania

in partnership with the George Enescu National University of Arts and the Iași International Theatre Festival for Young Audience (FITPTI)

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In theatre and performance, the notions of adaptation and rewriting appear as particularly fluid and prolific, designating practices as diverse as transgressive translations, (trad)adaptations, adaptive performances, metatheatrical recycling or performances loosely based on former texts. Derived works are the result of complex interweavings between textual and scenic alterations, which put forward both their structural dependence on the source work and the ambition of reading it critically.

The “Liquid stories: practices of adaptation and rewriting in contemporary theatre” international conference aims to identify patterns and turns in the narrative aesthetics of this cultural practice. What texts does contemporary theatre most often engage with? When does a text become sufficiently autonomous from the staged text, so that it can be considered a new work? What is the status of the text in a stage adaptation? Is there a clear-cut line between a stage adaptation and a dramatic adaptation, or between an adaptation and a rewriting?

Topics include (without being limited to) the following areas:

Textual challenges

- Telling the story otherwise
- Re-adaptations: adaptations haunted by other rewritings or by adaptations of the same text
- The treatment of characters

Stage adaptations and rewritings

- Stage rewritings
- The role of the text in stage adaptations
- Staging rewritings
- Beyond the text: dance, music, performance in theatrical adaptations

Aesthetic and political challenges

- Adaptors and rewriters as theoreticians of their own practice
- Treating the source work as a myth
- The adaptation as a critical reading of the source text
- The spectator’s role: recognizing the source text in the secondary text

We invite you to submit an abstract (200 words, in English or in French) and a brief author’s bio note by 15th June 2023 to danamonah@yahoo.fr.

Important dates

30 June 2023 – proposal submission
15 July 2023 – notification of acceptance
6-7 October 2023 – conference

Conference venue: “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania.

The languages of the conference are English and French.

Organising committee

Dana Monah, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași
Ioana Petcu-Pădurean, George Enescu University of Arts and Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași
Simona Locic, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

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