

## From the Guest Editors

### **Art Meets Research: The International Symposium on Concepts, Contexts, and Methods of Research in Theatre for Young Audiences, April 22, 2013, University of Hildesheim, Germany**

Theatre for young audiences (TYA) is a young, interdisciplinary, and growing international field of academic research. Since the founding of the International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network (ITYARN) in 2006 in Kristiansand, Norway, the scholarly output and publications in the field of TYA have drastically increased, and the need for academic research in TYA has been increasingly recognized by practitioners in the field. ITYARN aims to further academic research on TYA, facilitate exchange, and support the initiation of international cooperation and new research projects (Ityarn.org). Since 2006, ITYARN has been involved in numerous conferences, symposia, and festivals and has been contributing to several publications. In 2011, ITYARN became the official research network of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People.

The articles included in this issue were selected from contributions to Art Meets Research: The International Symposium on Concepts, Contexts, and Methods of Research in Theatre for Young Audiences. The symposium took place on April 22, 2013, at the University of Hildesheim in Germany. The symposium was realized as a cooperation between the University of Hildesheim and ITYARN. Its goal was to be a contribution to the critical discussion of the diverse international concepts of artistic practice and the scholarly reflections in the field of TYA. Participants from six European countries and North America were invited to present, compare, and debate their current research approaches. Audience members from other European countries as well as from South America contributed to the discussions. The symposium included one keynote, seven plenaries, two seminars, and to realize the interplay of theory and practice, three performances for children and young people aged two to fourteen years old.

For this symposium, the relationship between theory and practice was of special interest. Questions such as the following were discussed: Which theoretical approaches and research methods can be used for the analysis of children's theatre? How can performance theory contribute to the development of (an experimental) artistic practice? And how can artistic practice critically question concepts of performance theory, (very young) children, and youth? Last but not least, the possibility for new models of cooperation between practitioners and researchers emerging from this examination of the theory–practice interplay was investigated.

A main interest and success of this conference was the meeting of graduate students from different European and American countries, mainly the University of Hildesheim in Germany and the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the United States.

This special issue of *Youth Theatre Journal* offers a selection of articles adapted from the plenary papers and the seminars, as well as the keynote address. Some of the papers and seminars are more academic in the traditional sense, while some are more reflections of practices, but they all reflect what the symposium was about: a meeting of arts and research and an expansion of our notions of how arts and research can interact with, inform, and reflect each other.

### List of Participants

Dr. Iva Gruić

University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

*Analysis of Dramatic Structures as Support System for Investigations in TYA: The Structure of Perspective in TYA*

Dr. Karian Schuitema

University of Westminster, London, UK

*Researching the Social Political Context of Children's Theatre in the UK*

Dr. Manon van de Water

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

*Approaching Theory: Scholar and Practitioner*

Dr. Wolfgang Schneider

University of Hildesheim, Hildesheim, Germany

*Frameworks of Aesthetic Process in TYA Case Studies About Cultural Policy for Artistic Laboratories*

Dr. Geesche Wartemann

University of Hildesheim, Hildesheim, Germany

*Doing Research? Models of Inquiring Theatre Practice in Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA)*

### PhD Candidates

Gilles Abel

University of Namur, Namur, Belgium

*What Do Theaters for Young Audiences Think About? Philosophy, Children and Theater as Ingredients for a Research-Creation Dialectic*

Ben Fletcher-Watson

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

*Towards a Grounded Dramaturgy: Using Grounded Theory to Interrogate Performance Practices in Theatre for the Very Young*

Annika Hampel

University of Hildesheim, Hildesheim, Germany

*Fair Indo-German Collaborations in the Field of TYA Need for Research: The Artistic Practice and Artists' Perspective*

Heather Fitzsimmons Frey  
University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
*A Playmaking Research Journey Into Canada's North: Kangiqsujuaq*

Caroline Heinemann  
University of Hildesheim, Hildesheim, Germany  
*Changing Spaces: About a Theatrical Intervention in Nursery Schools*

Aron Weigl  
University of Hildesheim, Hildesheim, Germany  
*How to Bring Theory and Practice Together: International Theatre for Young Audiences Needs Foreign Cultural Policy*

### **Graduate Students**

Katherine Lieder  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA  
*Postcolonial Theater and Youth Identity Politics: A New Reading of Manjula Padmanabhan's Harvest*

Maren Becker, Gesine Kallert, and Judith Ph. Franke  
University of Hildesheim, Hildesheim, Germany  
*Knowing That + Knowing How = Different Knowledge (+A Lot of New Questions): A Practical Project Based on Theoretical Assumptions Turned Into Theory Again*

Erin M. Briddick  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA  
*Artifacts in Performance: When Souvenirs Become Pedagogical Tools*

Laura Farrell-Wortman  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA  
*Ireland's Fiscal Crisis: Young Theatre Artists Respond*

James T. Burling  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA  
*Youth Performance in Virtual Environments*

Hanife Schulte  
Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey  
*The Reasons Preventing the Production of High-Quality Theatre for Early Childhood*

Molly Budke  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA  
*Race and Casting in Theatre for Young Audiences: Learning From Mulan*

*Manon van de Water and Gesche Wartemann*  
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