

Theatre in Contested Democracy



Rimini Protokoll: 100% Wien, 2010, © Nurith Wagner-Strauss

Whenever right-wing populism raises its head in the middle of European democracies, journalists, politicians and scholars alike speculate about ‚democracy in crisis‘ and the nearing end of liberal concepts of living. In a panel debate with three distinguished theatre scholars we would like to explore the role of theatre in democratic societies. Is theatre a proper means, a public forum for discourse, to foster, enrich, maybe even stabilize democratic societies? Might theatre’s critical stance to society instead of initiating change rather support a gesture of withdrawal from politics? How can theatre institutions become immune to anti-democratic attacks? How democratic are they on the inside? Starting from particular historical moments in theatre, together with our guests, we will investigate these questions to maybe gain a better understanding of theatre and democracy today.

Prof. Kati Röttger, University of Amsterdam, Chair of Theatre Studies
Prof. em. David Wiles, University of Exeter
Prof. Dr. Wolf-Dieter Ernst, University of Bayreuth
And the members of the ERC research project “Performing Citizenship”



Panel discussion 9 October 2023, 1-4 pm

Institut für Theaterwissenschaft, Georgenstr. 11, room 109



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