



Theatre and Audience

By Helen Freshwater

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What does theatre do for – and to – those who witness, watch, and participate in it?

Theatre & Audience provides a provocative overview of the questions raised by theatrical encounters between performers and audiences. Focusing on European and North American theatre and its audiences in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, it explores belief in theatre's potential to influence, impact and transform. Illustrated by examples of performance which have sought to generate active audience involvement – from Brecht's epic theatre to the Blue Man Group – it seeks to unsettle any simple equation between audience participation and empowerment.

Foreword by Lois Weaver

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- Guardian Theatre Blog, September 2009,
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/theatreblog/2009/sep/10/theatre-critics-academics-artists>

'A thoroughly engaging read'

- Susan Bennett, University Professor, Department of English, University of Calgary, Canada

'This book is about us. It documents our presence, articulates our position and questions our experience as casual on-lookers, silent witnesses, engaged spectators, willing participants, in this glorious activity called audience. See for yourself.' - Lois Weaver

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International

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From the Back Cover

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