

Rethinking the Theatre of the Absurd: Ecology, the Environment and the Greening of the Modern Stage (Methuen Drama Engage)

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Rethinking the Theatre of the Absurd is an innovative collection of essays, written by leading scholars in the fields of theatre, performance and eco-criticism, which reconfigures absurdist theatre through the optics of ecology and environment. As well as offering strikingly new interpretations of the work of canonical playwrights such as Beckett, Genet, Ionesco, Adamov, Albee, Kafka, Pinter, Shephard and Churchill, the book playfully mimics the structure of Martin Esslin's classic text *The Theatre of the Absurd*, which is commonly recognised as one of the most important scholarly publications of the 20th century. By reading absurdist drama, for the first time, as an emergent form of ecological theatre, *Rethinking the Theatre of the Absurd* interrogates afresh the very meaning of absurdism for 21st-century audiences, while at the same time making a significant contribution to the development of theatre and performance studies as a whole.

The collection's interdisciplinary approach, accessibility, and ecological focus will appeal to students and academics in a number of different fields, including theatre, performance, English, French, geography and philosophy. It will also have a major impact on the new cross disciplinary paradigm of eco-criticism.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Carl Lavery teaches Theatre and Performance at Aberystwyth University, UK. His publications include *Jean Genet Politics and Performance*, with Clare Finburgh (2006), *Sacred Theatre* (2007), *Walking, Writing and Performance: Autobiographical Texts* by Dee Heddon, Carl Lavery and Phil Smith (2009), *The Politics of Jean Genet's Late Theatre: Spaces of Revolution* (2010), *Contemporary French Theatre and Performance*, with Clare Finburgh (2011), *Good Luck Everybody. Lone Twin: Journeys, Performances and Conversations*, with David Williams(2011), and the is he editor with Nick Whybrow of a special issue of *Performance Research* 'On Foot' (2012).

Clare Finburgh is a senior lecturer in the department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies at the University of Essex, UK. He research focuses on French and UK contemporary performance, notably innovations in French modern and contemporary playwriting and directing; and representations of conflict in UK theatre. She has co-written *Jean Genet* (with David Bradby, 2011), and co-edited *Genet: Performance and Politics* (2006) and *Contemporary French Theatre and Performance* (2011).

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