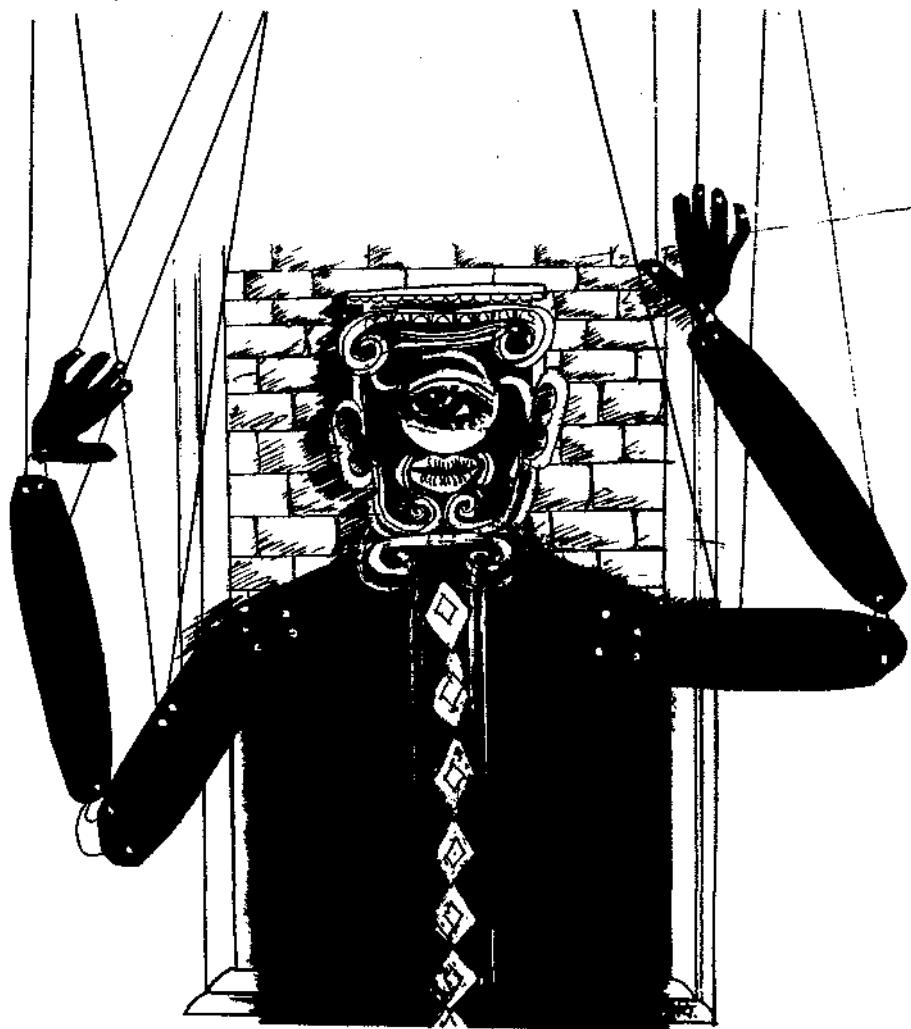


CRITICAL ARTS

A Journal for Media Studies



Alternative Performance in South Africa

July 1981 Vol 2 No 1



CRITICAL ARTS

July 1981

Editors:

Keyan G Tomaselli
John van Zyl

Editorial Board:

Eve Bertelsen
Tim Couzens
Peter Horn
David Maughan Brown
Robert Stam
Ian Steadman
Les Switzer

Overseas Organisers:

London: Susan Gardner
USA East Coast: Peter Davis
USA West Coast: David Mesenbring
Sao Paulo: Ismail Xavier
Paris: Patrice Pavis



Published by:
Critical Arts Study Group
Printed by Central Printing Unit
University of the Witwatersrand
1 Jan Smuts Avenue
2001 Johannesburg, South Africa



Distributed by:
Critical Study Group
Rhodes University
P O Box 94
Grahamstown 6140
South Africa

Copyright is vested with Editors and individual authors.

PREFACE

This is the second volume of Critical Arts to deal with drama, theatre and performance in South Africa. Although more articles were submitted than were published, the lack of interest and apathy on the part of Departments of Drama of local universities and, in some cases, their active (perhaps defensive) anti-intellectual and anti-academic stance, suggests that this issue will not be read by the majority of incumbents in those departments. No matter. The Journal's message will get through in other ways: via students of anthropology, sociology, history, politics and numerous other disciplines. While we obviously have a vested interest in our own individual disciplines, the study of drama, theatre and performance can only benefit from the absorption of knowledge from related disciplines. This synthesis is fundamental if performance studies are to progress.

This issue, for example, shows how the contributions of the intellectual and proletarian (as, for instance in worker theatre) can be synergetically synthesised into performances which could not otherwise exist. To be anti-intellectual is to be anti-theatre; for theatre has its roots in the practico-social, the everydayness of life, while intellectual interventions determine form and future, positive or negative. Critical Arts seeks above all to identify process first, and how that process relates to form, second.

Entitled "Alternative Performance in South Africa", this issue is Guest Edited by Ian Steadman who has, in his Editorial, outlined editorial policy with regard to performance studies. Future issues will build upon this and try similarly to present a less eclectic collection of studies in whatever area is under consideration.

We should like to thank the Editors of The Black Scholar for permission to reprint Ve Ve Clark's article. As with Patrice Pavis' paper on semiology in a previous issue, we believe this paper to be of great importance to the study of theatre in South Africa.

Keyan G Tomaselli

Cover design by Paul Roumanoff

Contents

Vol. 2 No. 1 July 1981

Guest Editor: Ian Steadman

Preface 1

MAJOR ARTICLES

1. "Editorial: Culture and Context: Notes on Performance in South Africa" - Ian Steadman 1
2. "The Semiotics of Alternative Theatre in South Africa" - Keyan G Tomaselli 14
3. "The Archaeology of Black Theatre" - Ve Ve Clark 34
4. "Stephen Black and Love and the Hyphen (1902-1928) - Stephen Gray 51

BIBLIOGRAPHY

5. "Performance Research: A Select Bibliography" - Ian Steadman 60

BOOK REVIEWS

6. The Semiotics of Theatre and Drama by Kier Elam
Reviewed by Patrice Pavis 66
 7. Ndilapa Nkosi by Orde Levinson
Reviewed by Jane Bennett 72
 8. The Living World of Shakespeare: A Playgoer's Guide by J Wain 74
 9. On Aristotle and Greek Tragedy by John Jones 76
 10. First Things Last by David Malouf
Reviewed by Don McLennan 77
-

Notes on Contributors

Ian Steadman is a lecturer in the School of Dramatic Art, Univ. of Witwatersrand.

Keyan Tomaselli lectures in the Dept of Journalism and Media Studies, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

Ve Ve Clark is attached to the Dept of African and Caribbean Literature, Tufts University, Boston, USA.

Stephen Gray is Associate Professor of English at Rand Afrikaans University.

Patrice Pavis lectures at Institut de Theatre, Paris.

Jane Bennett and Tony Parr are lecturers in the Dept of English, UCT.

Don McLennan is senior lecturer, Dept of English, Rhodes University.
