

KINGSTON SHAKESPEARE SEMINAR presents

Jan Kott Our Contemporary: Contexts, Legacies, New Perspectives

An international one-day conference, Rose Theatre, Kingston-upon-Thames
Thursday 19 February 2015

On the hundredth anniversary of his birth, and half a century to the day after the English publication of Jan Kott's *Shakespeare Our Contemporary*, this conference will bring together scholars, students, practitioners, reviewers, and members of the general public, to discuss the role of the Polish critic Jan Kott in Shakespeare and Theatre Studies, as well as his contribution to the intellectual life of the twentieth century. The event is part of a centenary celebration that includes evening performances of *Songs of Lear*, an acclaimed production by the Polish Song of the Goat Theatre, at the Battersea Arts Centre, London.

Kingston Shakespeare Seminar Series (KiSS) in co-operation with Polish Cultural Institute in London and Battersea Arts Centre

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08.30 - 09.00 Registration (Foyer)

09.00 Welcome by Richard Wilson (Kingston University), Anna Godlewska (Director of Polish Cultural Institute in London) and Aleksandra Sakowska (British Friends of Gdansk Theatre Trust) (Gallery)

09.10 – 09.20 John Elsom's Introduction: 'Is Shakespeare Still Our Contemporary?' (Gallery)

09.20 – 10.10 Keynote Lecture: 'Shakespeare Our (Polish) Contemporary' (Gallery)

Dariusz Kosinski (Jagiellonian University, Cracow and Deputy Director of Theatre Institute, Warsaw) chaired by Anna Godlewska

10.10 -10.50 Panel 1: In Search of Human Essence: Theatre of Song of the Goat (Gallery)
Grzegorz Bral and Dariusz Kosinski. Chaired by Aleksandra Sakowska.

10.50 – 11.50 Panel 2: Kott and British Shakespeare (Gallery)

Kate McLuskie, Graham Holderness and Ken Pickering. Chaired by Richard Wilson.

11.50 – 12.10 Coffee break (circle bar)

12.10 -13.25 Panel 3: Jan Kott Before and After the Iron Curtain (Gallery)

Madalina Nicolaescu, Jan Kott's Resonance on the Romanian stage: in the Past and in the Present.

Zorica Nolic, Lingering Presence of Jan Kott's 'presentism' in Serbia

Kalina Stefanova, Revolting Against the "imposed situation" or Eastern European Hamlets in the Light of Jan Kott's Insights

Jana Wild, "...convenience both of time and means": Jan Kott and Slovak Theatre

chaired by Duška Radosavljevic

13.25 -14.15 Panel 4: Kott and Theatre Criticis (Gallery)

John Elsom, Ben Nightingale and Ned Chaillet in conversation, chaired by Ian Herbert

14.15 – 15.10 Lunch break – own arrangements

15.10 -16.10 Parallel Seminars – Part 1

1. 'Polish Shakespeare' (**Gallery**)

Wanda Świątkowska, The Political Hamlet: according to Jan Kott and Jerzy Grotowski

Tadeusz Bradecki, Shakespeare, Our Contemporary, Today

Kevin Hayes, Jan Kott's Vision of Shakespeare in The Dramatic World of Witkacy

Chaired by Aneta Mancewicz

2. 'Kott and the Greeks' (**Upper Circle Bar**)

J Michael Walton, Jan Kott and the Greeks

Timo Uotinen, Kott's Prometheus, or the State of Man

Paul Hamilton, Jan Kott: Critic of Violated Thresholds

chaired by **Christian Smith**

16.10 – 17.10 Parallel Seminars – Part 2

1. **King Lear and the Theatre of the Absurd (Gallery)**

Ildikó Ungvári Zrínyi, Dictators, Puppets and Japanese Drums, Jan Kott's legacy in the Hungarian theatre of Romania

Paulo Gregório Peter Brook's *King Lear*: From Experimentation to Canonisation

Ildiko Solti, "Wherefore to Dover?": Jan Kott's concept of the Elizabethan playhouse in 'King Lear, or Endgame'

Chaired by Frank Whately

2. 'Universal Shakespeare' (**Upper Circle Bar**)

Victor Martin, Jan Kott and Macbeth "Brando", or an Intertextual Commentary on Rupert Goold's *Macbeth* (2010)

Dong Weina, Dancing in Shackles: Reflections on the Chinese Peking Opera Shakespearean Adaptations

Chaired by Ann Sophie Refskou

17.10 – 17.30 Coffee break (**circle bar**)

17.30 – 18.00 "Kage where K for Kott" multi-media performance by **Filippos Tsitsopoulos (Studio)**

18.00 – 18.30 "Kage where K for Kott" project Q&A (**Gallery**)

Sozita Goudouna with **Filippos Tsitsopoulos** chaired by **Ken McMullen**

18.30 – 19.30 Panel 5: 'Shakespeare Our Contemporary' and Theatre Directors (Gallery)

Stephen Unwin, Kate Stafford, Philip Parr and Arne Pohlmeier in conversation. Chaired by Kate Mcluskie

19.30 – 20.30 Drinks (upper circle bar)

20.30 Close

There is **no registration fee** for 'Jan Kott Our Contemporary'. The conference will be free and open to the general public. Tickets for the **Song of the Goat Theatre production of *Songs of Lear*** will be available at the Battersea Arts Centre website https://www.bac.org.uk/content/35391/see_whats_on/whats_on/shows/songs_of_lear

Organisers:

John Elsom (Kingston Shakespeare Seminar), **Anna Godlewska** (Polish Cultural Institute), **Anna Gruszka** (Polish Cultural Institute), **Aleksandra Sakowska** (British Friends of the Gdansk Theatre Trust), **Richard Wilson** (Kingston University)