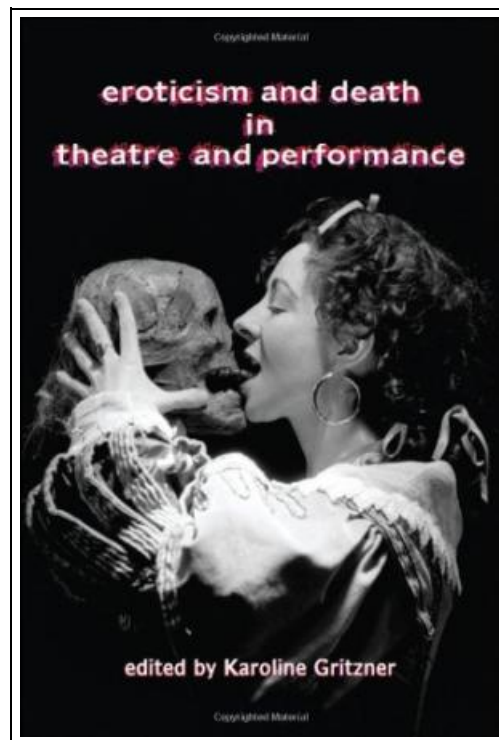


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Reviews

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EROTICISM AND DEATH IN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE (PAPERBACK)



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University of Hertfordshire Press, United Kingdom, 2010. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Eros and Death are the two central drives and compulsions of the human psyche, and their dynamic interconnectedness has been pervasive in the formation of Western thought and culture. The essays brought together in this collection offer new perspectives on the eros/death relation in a wide selection of dramatic texts, theatrical practices and cultural performances. Topics explored range from Greek tragedy, Shakespearean theatre, the work of Georg Buchner, Bertolt Brecht, the kiss of death in opera, the theatricality of Parisian culture, to the performance of conjuring, contemporary British drama, body art, the live performances of Nick Cave and erotic encounters in One to One performances. Many of the essays locate their discussions of erotic desire and death as opposed and entwining passions in specific cultural-historical contexts and provide a sense of how drama and theatre reflect and influence changing attitudes towards sexuality and death. As well as offering particular historical perspectives, the collection contains essays that engage with contemporary dramatic writing and experimental theatre/performance practice, such as the drama of Howard Barker, the performance work of La Fura dels Baus, and the explicit body performances of Ron Athey. Various ways of eroticising death in theatre and through performance are addressed, as well as the question of whether there is something intrinsically theatrical about our encounters with the ultimately unknowable nature of sexual desire and our relation to death. The book combines theoretically informed criticism (drawing on psychoanalytical and philosophical models by Freud, Bataille, Lacan, A I A ek, Lingis and others) with detailed text and performance analysis, giving a sense of the powerful appeal which death and the erotic exert on the human imagination. The collection contains essay contributions by dramatists David Rudkin, Dic Edwards, David...



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