Rehearsing the Possible: Practicing Reparative Creativity

Many religious paths espouse that humanity plays a key and creative role in repairing the world prior to its redemption by a divine figure. Judaism teaches *tikkun olam*, which obligates Jewish people to social responsibility and justice both for the earth and its inhabitants. Buddhism argues that dismantling causes of systemic suffering requires dismantling causes of personal suffering. Contemporary witches mix morals and magic, conjuring spells for healing the planet, the social body, and the self. Catholic liberation theology seeks to root out sinful structures that cause social inequities, and the Christian concept of postmillennialism preaches that Christ will only establish his kingdom on earth only after humans have created a world of righteousness and peace.

ATHE’s Religion and Theatre Focus Group seeks scholarly and artistic responses to religiously inflected performances that represent a world in need of repair and rehearse visions of redeemed ones. How do these works embody and exorcise the racism, violence, abuse, and pain that threaten the possibility of a more just and more holy existence? How do spiritually literate performances do the work of healing? How do they imagine liberation? How do these works engage with the possibility that if we can stage lions lying with lambs, perhaps we can make it so?

Submissions in dialogue with a wide variety of religious and spiritual traditions are highly encouraged.

**Submission Deadlines**

Interested participants may apply in two ways:

1. Submit an abstract (250-300 words) for individual papers to Dana Tanner-Kennedy at dana.tanner.kennedy@gmail.com by November 1, 2021.

2. Submit a complete panel proposal to the ATHE website by December 1, 2021.

**Full Panel Submission Guidelines**

Full panel proposals will be submitted through ATHE’s conference platform. Check www.athe.org for details.
Questions or concerns? Contact Religion and Theatre Focus Group conference planner Dana Tanner-Kennedy at dana.tanner.kennedy@gmail.com.