ATHE Performance Studies Focus Group
10th Annual Pre-Conference

‘SPECTACULAR ANTAGONISMS’: POLITICS AND PERFORMANCE

Wednesday 1 August, 2012
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capital Hill
Washington, D.C.
ATHE Performance Studies Focus Group
10th Annual Pre-Conference

‘SPECTACULAR ANTAGONISMS’: POLITICS AND PERFORMANCE

Wednesday 1 August 2012, 12-6pm

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
Washington, D.C.

Taking its lead from a term used the Situationists, ‘Spectacular Antagonisms: Politics and Performance’ aims to extend conversations currently taking place in our field regarding performance, representation and spectacular political culture. Alongside contributions from a panel of invited speakers, plenary discussion and a film screening, there will be some informal time and space for both senior and junior scholars to gather and share their ongoing work over lunch.

2012 is a special year for PSFG, as it marks the 10th anniversary of our pre-conference. At the conclusion of the day, we will move on to the Capitol Lounge, a bar near to the conference hotel, to toast the work of the pre-conference over the past decade.
**About PSFG**

The ATHE Performance Studies Focus Group (PSFG) has been in existence for over a decade. Since its inception PSFG has expanded the scope of ATHE’s scholarship, drawing upon interdisciplinary methods, scholars and ideas to broaden the field. PSFG has consistently sponsored a wide variety of multidisciplinary panels and has, within the context of ATHE, expanded the scholarship and discussion of the parameters and function of ‘performance.’

**PSFG Officers and Members-at-Large**  
**2011-2012**

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**PSFG**
SCHEDULE

12pm
Coffee and registration

12.30pm
PANEL: ‘Performance, politics and the avant garde’

Speakers:

Sarah Bay-Cheng (University of Buffalo)
James Harding (University of Warwick)
Beth Hoffmann (George Mason University)

2-3pm
Late lunch break and discussion.

3.15pm
SCREENING: Requiem for Detroit (Julien Temple, 2010)

5.30pm
Closing remarks

6-8pm
PSFG Pre-Conference reception at Capitol Lounge

If you would like to learn more about PSFG, please attend our annual business meeting. See the ATHE program for the exact location of this meeting.
Biographies

Beth Hoffmann (George Mason University) is an assistant professor of English at George Mason University, in Fairfax, VA. Beth received her Ph.D. in Performance Studies from the University of California, Berkeley in 2008. Her research focuses on the aesthetics and politics of contemporary British performance, ranging from traditional drama to visually-based live art. She is just finishing her current book project, Acting Without Guarantees: The Politics of Form in Contemporary British Performance, which tracks changing conceptualizations of “text-based performance” and dramatic literature in post-1968 British theatre. She is commencing a new project that will re-examine the role that narrative form has played in forging a politics for “relational aesthetics” and post-dramatic performance.

James Harding (University of Warwick) is Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Warwick. He is the author of Cutting Performances: Collage Events, Feminist Artists and the American Avant-Garde (Michigan, 2010) and Adorno and a Writing of the Ruins (SUNY, 1997). His newest monograph, The Ghosts of the Avant-Garde (Michigan) is forthcoming in 2013. His other books include The Rise of Performance Studies: Rethinking Richard Schechner’s Broad Spectrum (Palgrave, 2011), which he co-edited with Cindy Rosenthal. His current projects include a monograph on performance, espionage, and transparency in western democracies and a monograph on notions of performance in surveillance societies.

Sarah Bay-Cheng (University of Buffalo) is Associate Professor of Theatre and Director of Graduate Studies at the University at Buffalo, where she teaches modern drama, avant-garde theatre and film, and intermedia performance theory. Her publications include Mama Dada: Gertrude Stein’s Avant-Garde Theater (2004), Poets at Play: An Anthology of Modernist Drama (2010), and Mapping Intermediality (2010). She is currently the Performance Review Editor for Theatre Journal and co-edits the new book series Avant-Gardes in Performance for Palgrave. She recently founded the Teche Institute for Arts and Emerging Technologies to foster new research collaborations among the arts and technological sciences.
**Performance Studies Focus Group Sessions and Multi-disciplinary Sessions with PSFG Participation**

**Thursday August 2**

1:30-3:00 PM

“The Revolution Will Be Streamed”: The Performance of Protest in the 21st Century  
*Location: Concord, Ballroom Level*

3:15-4:45PM

Disability Performance, Audiencing Procedures  
*Location: Concord, Ballroom Level*

**Friday August 3**

11:30 AM- 1:00PM

Signs and Community Under the Big Top: Exploring Circus as Civic Engagement  
*Location: Regency B, Ballroom Level*

3:30-5:00PM

PSFG Emerging Scholars Panel  
*Location: Congressional C, Lobby Level*

5:15-6:45PM

Performances of Citizenship  
*Location: Concord, Ballroom Level*

5:15-6:45PM

The Theatre Artist as World Citizen: Exploring Study/Work Abroad Requirements for B.F.A. Programs  
*Location: Bryce, 2nd Floor*
5:15-6:45PM

Embodied Research Methods: Proposals and Provocations
Location: Yosemite, 2nd Floor

7:00-8:30PM

Blue Collars in Ivory Towers
Location: Congressional A, Lobby Level

7:00PM-8:30PM

The National Mall as a Performance Site: Activism, Identity, and Magical Thinking
Location: Bryce, Second Floor.

Saturday, August 4

8:00-9:30AM

This is What Democracy Looks Like: Neoliberalism and Performance on the Global Stage
Location: Concord, Ballroom Level

8:00-9:30 AM

Metaphors and Discourses of Acting: Creating Room for More Voices at the Civic Table
Location: Thornton A, 11th Floor

11:30-1:00 PM

PSFG Foundational Documents Panel
Foundational Documents and Constitutional Enactments: Citizenship, Due Process, and Equal Protection
Location: Thornton A, 11th Floor
PERFORMANCE STUDIES FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS
AND
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY SESSIONS WITH PSFG PARTICIPATION
(Continued)

11:30AM-1:00PM

Performance Geographies: Theoretical/Theatrical Approaches to ‘Real’ Communities
Location: Thornton Lounge, 11th Floor

1:45-3:15 PM

Legal Enactments
Location: Yosemite, 2nd Floor.

3:30-5:00 PM

Performatve Politics, Passivity, and the Rise of Foodie Culture
Location: Thornton A, 11th Floor

Sunday, August 5

8:00-9:30AM

Performance Studies Focus Group (PSFG) Annual Membership Meeting
Location: Lexington, Ballroom Level

9:45-11:15AM

Uncanny Medias: Performance/Technology
Location: Regency D, Ballroom Level

11:30AM-1:00PM

Engaging With Darkness: Thanatourism and Performance
Location: Bryce, 2nd Floor

11:30AM-1:00PM

Historical and Collective (Counter Memory in African-American Performances Across Media
Location: Thornton A, 11th Floor
Washington University in St. Louis
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Master of Arts in Theater and Performance Studies

The Performing Arts Department at Washington University welcomes applications for its revamped M.A. in Theater and Performance Studies. Drawing on outstanding faculty both in theater and performance studies and in other disciplines, the program provides the opportunity for the intense study of theater and performance in its historical and cultural contexts, and across global traditions.

Applications due January 15, 2013

Contact: Professor Julia Walker
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