Trauma-Tragedy: Symptoms of contemporary performance

By Patrick Duggan

Manchester University Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 240 pages. Trauma-Tragedy investigates the extent to which performance can represent the unrepresentable of trauma. Throughout, there is a focus on how such representations might be achieved and if they could help us to understand trauma on personal and social levels. In a world increasingly preoccupied with and exposed to traumas social, personal, political, violent, psychological, fictional, local, global this volume considers what performance offers as a means of commentary that other cultural products do not. The books clear and coherent navigation of the key theories within performance studies and its analysis of key practitioners and performances (from Sarah Kane to Socetas Raffaello Sanzio, Harold Pinter to Forced Entertainment, and Phillip Pullman to Franco B) make it accessible and useful to students of performance and trauma studies at all levels. Yet its rigorous and incisive interrogation of the complex relationship between performance, spectatorship and trauma make it of particular interest and usefulness to scholars and specialists. Duggan explores ideas around the phenomenological and socio-political efficacy and impact of performance in relation to trauma. Addressing questions of witnessing, presence, ethics and kinaesthetics, Trauma-Tragedy employs trauma and performance theories as the central theoretical frames but draws...

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