

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### International Conference

#### Politics of Theatre:

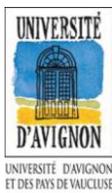
Current and Future Transnational Strategies for Building and Improving the Theatrical Experience

University of Milano, November 28-29, 2017

The Department of Cultural Heritage and Environment of the University of Milano organizes an International Conference on «Politics of Theatre: Current and Future Transnational Strategies for Building and Improving the Theatrical Experience» within the European Cooperation Project «SENSES: New Transnational Strategies for Theatre Audience Building». In addition to the final evaluation of the project, the conference aims at promoting a dialogue among institutional representatives, theatre professionals and scholars upon strategies of audience building within an aesthetic perspective that could possibly define their theoretical and historical context.

The conference to be held in November 28-29, 2017 will be divided in two sections, in accordance with the complementary dimensions that play a role in working with the theatrical audience.

*Theatrical Politics: the audience and its scene.* The first section is conceived as a multidisciplinary platform for dialogue among institutions, professionals, critics and scholars on the function of the theatre in the public sphere and the central role of the spectator in the performing arts, so as to promote a comparison between the theatrical systems in different European countries and their respective legislative and institutional frameworks. Purpose of this comparison is to outline transnational strategies for enhancing the theatrical experience. With this aim, the section will offer a space to examine the relation between theatre, spectator and public sphere in the present context of gradual dematerialization of performance and participation practices. In order to deepen the perspective of the comparison, which mainly addresses the contemporary world, a relevant part of the discussion will be devoted to the historical and intellectual-historical study of significant cases of theoretical reflection on theatre audience and its function.



*Theatrical Aesthetics: senses and fruition.* The second section will contribute to the aims of the conference by examining the experience of theatre audience within the perspective of modern aesthetics. Since the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the popularity of theatre calls the attention of philosophers and critics insofar as they become aware that appealing to the norms of “good taste” is no longer enough to educate the “tastes” of a wider and more heterogeneous public. To that aim, the receptive faculties must be trained in order to increase or attenuate the intensity of sensations. The experience of the spectators in the theatre may serve as a model for the fruition of different art forms, like a painting. On the other hand, a generalization seems to be prevented by the specific interaction of text, staging and performing that contribute to the theatrical representation, activating a complex sensory experience, and by the peculiar ethical-pedagogical purposes assigned to the theatre. The section will investigate the theoretical premises and the history of the relationship between the general issue of forming a public taste and the exemplary case of building the theatrical audience, from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to contemporary theories of reception aesthetics.

Proposals should be sent no later than April 30, 2017 to the email address:

senses\_call@unimi.it

Please submit abstracts (in PDF format only) not exceeding 200 words and a short CV (also in PDF format) with current contact information.

All proposals will be reviewed and selected by the Organizing Committee (Paolo Bignamini, Eugenio De Caro, Serena Feloj, Lorenzo Lattanzi, Chiara Sironi, Chiara Spenuso) and the Scientific Committee (Paolo Bosisio, Raffaele De Berti, Cesare Fertoni, Maddalena Mazzocut-Mis, Theodor Nita, Paola Ranzini, Paolo Rusconi, Claudio Toscani).

Languages of the conference are Italian, English and French. Proposals from scholars, critics, theatre professionals and artists are encouraged.

A list of keynote speaker will be published as soon as possible on the website of the SENSES project: <http://www.sensesproject.eu>