

A puzzle box without a picture. Working with theatre archives

open session

We are comfortable discussing how to organize performing arts archives, both physical and virtual. But what about the sources gathered there? Written and spoken, photographic and phonographic, audiovisual and other? If we are aware that theatre happens only “here and now”, and “there and then” exists only as an afterimage, can we properly use preserved documents, which most often resemble a puzzle box without a picture? The question we want to ask is not how to faithfully reconstruct a historical representation (this is a utopian concept), but how to avoid the temptation of over-interpretation when we try to imagine what is most probable.

- 9.30 am Session opening, Jadwiga Majewska
(Zbigniew Raszewski Theatre Institute)
- 9.50 am *The performance that “does not exist and never did”: Paradoxes of reconstructing a director’s script*
dr Mateusz Żurawski
(Zbigniew Raszewski Theatre Institute – Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy of Dramatic Art)
- discussion
- 10.30 am intermission
- 11.00 am *Actors’ manuscripts. The acting arcana of the 19th century*
dr hab. Dorota Jarząbek-Wasyl
(Jagiellonian University)
- 11.30 am *“Hamlet” and mijałowcy*
dr Agnieszka Wójtowicz
(University of Opole)
- 12.00 am intermission
- discussion
- 12.30 am *Invisible guardians of the stage: The role of stage managers’ reports in theatre archives*
Natalia Cierniak
(Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy of Dramatic Art)
- 1.00 pm *Notes on filming theatre: Three recordings of Jerzy Grzegorzewski’s “Little Spirit”*
dr Wojciech Świdziński
(Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy of Dramatic Art)
- discussion
- 1.30 pm end of session