

Seminar

Remappings and New Centerings of Shakespeare on the Opera-Musical and Ballet-Dance Stages

Alina Bottez¹, Adeline Chevrier-Bosseau², Nancy Isenberg³

¹University of Bucharest, Romania; ²University Blaise-Pascal, F- Clermont-Ferrand, France; ³Roma Tre University, Italy

alinabottez@gmail.com; achevrier.bosseau@gmail.com; nancy.isenberg@uniroma3.it

Across time and the geopolitical global map, the opera and ballet stages have shared a long-standing tradition of looking to Shakespeare for inspiration, narratives, and characters. Such migrations number in the hundreds for both genres where many of them occupy central positions in their genre's repertory. With the rise of musical theatre and modern and contemporary dance, these genres too have produced their share of Shakespearean remediations, with a similar effect.

Our seminar will advance our understanding of this strong and influential presence of opera-musical and ballet-dance on the global map of Shakespeare's cultural travels and of Shakespeare's influence within the world of opera-musical and ballet-dance

It proposes to look at how, as Shakespeare's texts cross the borders of nations and media on the opera-musical and ballet-dance stages, each specific genre, through its own narrative devices, draws heightened attention to identity related issues (gender, sexuality race, ethnicity) in individual and societal relations, and sharpen the edges of the tensions around them.

We are interested in exploring:

- (1) the way these genres use their own tools to 'translate' Shakespeare into new 'scripts' (music scores, libretti, story boards and books, choreographies), involving their specific musical and corporeal vocabularies, registers, discourse styles and dramatic conventions.
- (2) how these genres use the geography (center-peripheral positioning; circulation on stage) and demographics (from solos to ensembles) of their stages.
- (3) how Shakespeare adaptations in the worlds of these genres reflect or question their socio-political 'here and now', creating new mental landscapes especially at relational intersections.

We invite contributions on specific works and performances on these stages; comparative studies within one of the genres; cross-disciplinary studies involving combinations of opera-musical and ballet-dance. We also invite data-oriented studies that will make more visible the width and breadth of Shakespeare operas-musicals and ballets-dances in the Shakespearean world.

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