

Lectures, Daily Dialogues and Conversations

In Other Words: In Other Worlds

The doing of theatre and the discussion of theatre are dependent on each other, yet there remains the fear that speaking about performance not only demystifies it, but disenchant it.

The most obvious talk of theatre are the first tentative words you say to each other on the way from an event - "So what did you think..?". The first human instinct is to express like or dislike, and exploring the meanings of theatre will always, happily, take second place to this primary cultural relationship between the object of performance and the subjectivity of audiences.

But beyond this confirmation of ourselves and our tastes, what about others? LIFT recognises, through the act of programming an international festival, that human beings derive understanding from their relationships with other people. Conversations might appear to create new possibilities, but with no reference to the ways in which ideas and meanings come to us, from others before us and elsewhere, they are as likely to reinforce the prejudices of those involved as to question them.

The LIFT Lectures are, for this reason, opportunities for critical, rather than explanatory presentations. Questions of cultural identity inundate theatre and flex through the work of LIFT's Lecturers: Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Rustom Bharucha and Gayatri Spivak. The invention of new border languages by Gómez-Peña, the anti-colonial polemics of Bharucha, and the deconstruction of oppressive politics by Spivak are indications as to why each has been invited to lecture from the stage of the National Theatre in LIFT '93.

Closer to the participatory spirit of LIFT are the Daily Dialogues taking place every weekday for the duration of the Festival at the Royal Festival Hall. The Daily Dialogues will provide LIFT for the first time with an open forum for public debates arising from issues spilling out of festival performances. Each Dialogue will be set off by the interaction of two invited guests and a contentious point for discussion. International artists, directors, writers and academics from inside and beyond the festival will then take their bearings from the concerns, questions and quarrels of those of you who attend.

This talkative Festival reasserts the relationship between doing and saying, the critical need for criticism and the importance not just of talking about what the state of play already is, but asking what it could be. After the festival has dissolved into the streets and the growl of the traffic, other worlds will only be imaginable again in other words.

ALAN READ

LIFT Lectures

RUSTOM BHARUCHA

VENUE: Monday 21 June, 6pm. Cottesloe Theatre, Royal National Theatre, South Bank Centre, London SE1.

Box Office: 071-928 2252 or LIFT '93 Box Office: 071-413 1459.

Indian writer, director and dramaturg, Rustom Bharucha has written extensively on the politics of culture. In his latest book *THEATRE AND THE WORLD*, to be published in the UK this summer, he contends that the appropriation and misappropriation of Indian Theatre by western theatre makers has perpetuated an ethos which bears little relationship to the political, social and economic imperatives of contemporary India.

GUILLERMO GÓMEZ-PEÑA

VENUE: Wednesday 30 June, 6pm. Cottesloe Theatre, details as above.

Mexican born inter-disciplinary performer and writer, Gómez-Peña has done more than any artist of his generation to map out cross cultural issues in the United States. Peace-maker, poet, satirist and "border guard", Gómez-Peña's current performance, *THE NEW WORLD BORDER*, speaks directly from the frontiers of end-of-the-century US/Latino relations.

GAYATRI SPIVAK

VENUE: Friday 9 July, 6pm. Cottesloe Theatre, details as above.

Gayatri Spivak is a distinguished scholar and Professor of English at Columbia University, New York. As a feminist and critic of cultural politics, she is well known in Britain for her regular contributions to the journal *THIRD TEXT* and as author of *IN OTHER WORLDS: ESSAYS IN CULTURAL POLITICS*.



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