

**Call for Papers for the next *Polish Theatre Journal* issue:
Theatre Ecology**

We announce an open invitation to send suggestions for texts for the next issue of the bilingual *Polish Theatre Journal*. The topic of the Call for Papers for the ninth issue is 'Theatre Ecology'. We invite you to send suggestions for texts by 31 January 2020.

We seem to have grasped that we are at a turning point. We've taken on board the information that we have only a decade or two to diametrically change the existing model of development and rescue human civilization from collapse. Unfortunately, several important participants in public debate still insist on openly denying scientists' alarming diagnoses, and public recognition or scepticism of climate change is becoming polarized along political divides. This is not to say that we are incapable of effecting genuine change to the model of how we function in any area of life, including art. Theatre/performance ecology in Poland is still mostly associated with the paratheatrical investigations of Jerzy Grotowski in the 1970s and the later activities of such groups as the Gardzienice Academy for Theatre Practices and the Węgałty Theatre, which, moreover, are interpreted almost exclusively in the context of 'interhuman ecology'. Without dismissing this field, we would also like to focus on the urgent task of reflecting much more broadly on the ecological dimension of theatre in very practical and specific terms. We invite you to examine the ways contemporary creators tackle ecological issues, face the challenge of non-anthropocentrism, and use an ecological framework to recontextualize historical theatrical phenomena.

The following questions seem important in this context:

- Which values in theatre are truly indispensable, and which cultural circumstances give theatres the licence to squander funds and produce toxic waste in the process of production of a play?
- What does (or would) slow theatre based on the post-growth concept look like? Could it, for instance, be a contemporary reinterpreted version of poor theatre?
- What challenges does the literary movement of ecocriticism pose for theatre criticism and theatre research?
- How does (and has in the past) theatre as a community, organization, and institution implement principles of social ecology, such as cultural diversity and intergenerational solidarity?
- Which creative methods have theatrical artists used to realize the idea of mental ecology (see Bateson's *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*)?

We are particularly interested in receiving proposals for articles responding to the above questions with regard to Polish theatre, as yet an unresearched field in this regard.

We are also looking for reinterpretations of historical proposals and accomplishments related to the ecological ideas being defined today. We consider the ideas and achievements of Mieczysław Limanowski, Juliusz Osterwa, Irena Solska (as the founder of an actors' cooperative), Jędrzej Cierniak and the entire people's theatre movement, as well as the aforementioned Jerzy Grotowski, Gardzienice Academy, Węgajty Theatre, and others to be deserving of special attention in this respect. On the other hand, we are also interested in reflection on contemporary proposals of artists of the theatre (for example the works of Krzysztof Garbaczewski and Anna Karasińska) and other performing arts, including visual artists employing performative strategies (e.g. Teresa Murak and Cecylia Malik). We are interested too in the theatrical and performative aspects of protests and other pro-ecology events (protests in defence of the Białowieża Forest, climate strikes). In short: in the first issue of PTJ in 2020 we would like to produce a kind of catalogue of the assets and achievements of Polish theatre and performing arts, but also the problems and questions they are facing in the light of impending catastrophe.

Please send brief proposals for articles (the summary and the article itself may be written in Polish or English) of **around 300 words** to the editors at ptj@instytut-teatralny.pl or via the website www.polishtheatrejournal.com (open system journal) by **31 January 2020**.

Cited works:

Bateson, Gregory, *Steps to an Ecology of Mind: Collected Essays in Anthropology, Psychiatry, Evolution, and Epistemology*, University of Chicago Press, 1972.

Climate Action Network Europe, *Off target: Ranking of EU countries' ambition and progress in fighting climate change*, 2018, http://www.chronmyklimat.pl/content/files/CAN_Off-target_report_FIN.pdf [accessed 20 December 2019].

IPCC, *Global Warming of 1.5°C: An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty*, ed. by Valérie Masson-Delmotte and others, In Press 2018, <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15> [accessed 20 December 2019].

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