

DOCUMENTARY EXPERIENCES AND THEATRICAL CREATION

Creative processes, realities, dramaturgies and political dimensions of today's German-speaking performing arts

Abstract

The number of theatrical forms based on documentary research has increased considerably in recent years in the German-speaking world. The works explored are complex, fragmented, often characterized by a porosity between reality and fiction. This study explores how current documentary performances are rooted in reality, especially when developing new forms of participation during creative processes. Although "documentary theatre" is part of a tradition in Germany, this expression is no longer appropriate to the diversity of current documentary practices and aesthetics. Indeed, the experience is now at the heart of these practices, which are based on social exchanges, investigation and long-term process. We highlight the emergence of journalistic aesthetics, the production of a new knowledge and the displacement of politics in theatre through today's documentary practices. A central aspect of the work is to observe the relationship between practices, production methods and dramaturgies in a corpus consisting of biographical accounts. The social and aesthetic transformations generated by these practices reinvent theatricality, interrogate history and presents shifting identities.

Keywords: Documentary practices, experience, creative process, contemporary theatre, German-speaking scene.