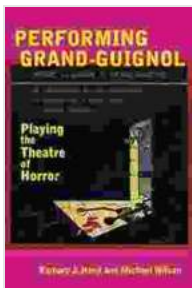


Playing the Theatre of Horror: A Comprehensive Exploration of Exeter Performance Studies

The Shadows of Gothic Literature: A Literary Foundation

The Theatre of Horror finds its roots in the macabre and supernatural themes that permeate Gothic literature. From the chilling tales of Edgar Allan Poe to the atmospheric novels of Mary Shelley, Gothic fiction has captivated readers with its exploration of fear, darkness, and the unknown. This literary genre has cast a long shadow over theatre, inspiring countless performances that delve into the realms of horror and the macabre.

At Exeter Performance Studies, scholars trace the influence of Gothic literature on theatre, examining how playwrights have adapted these haunting narratives for the stage. Students explore the ways in which horror can be evoked through language, setting, and characterization, delving into the psychological depths of characters tormented by fear and the supernatural.



Performing Grand-Guignol: Playing the Theatre of Horror (Exeter Performance Studies)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 8438 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 294 pages



The Supernatural on Stage: Performance and Aesthetics

The Theatre of Horror is not simply about reciting lines from Gothic novels; it is about creating an immersive experience that transports audiences into the realm of the supernatural. Exeter Performance Studies focuses on the distinct aesthetics and techniques that are employed to achieve this effect.

Students examine the use of lighting, sound, and stage design in horror performances, analyzing how these elements contribute to the creation of atmosphere and suspense. They explore the role of actors in embodying supernatural beings, examining their physicality, vocalization, and emotional expression.

By understanding the performance practices associated with horror, students gain a deeper appreciation for the craft of theatre and the ways in which it can evoke powerful emotions of fear and unease.

The Gothic Revival in Theatre: A Victorian Legacy

The Theatre of Horror reached its peak during the Victorian era, a time marked by a fascination with the Gothic and the macabre. The works of Victorian playwrights such as Dion Boucicault and Tom Taylor showcased the interplay between horror and social commentary.

Exeter Performance Studies explores the Gothic Revival in theatre, tracing the ways in which Victorian playwrights adapted popular Gothic themes to explore issues of class, gender, and morality. Students analyze the political and social contexts of these performances, examining how they reflected the fears and anxieties of the time.

By understanding the historical roots of the Theatre of Horror, students gain a comprehensive view of its evolution and its continuing relevance in contemporary performance.

Modern Horror: Expanding the Boundaries

The Theatre of Horror is not confined to the past; it continues to evolve and resonate in modern performance. Exeter Performance Studies explores the ways in which contemporary theatre companies are reimagining horror for the 21st century.

Students investigate the use of new technologies, immersive experiences, and interactive storytelling to create innovative horror performances. They engage with the works of experimental theatre companies and playwrights who are pushing the boundaries of the genre, challenging traditional notions of horror and its role in society.

By examining modern horror in theatre, students gain an understanding of the evolving nature of the genre and its ongoing relevance as a means of confronting contemporary fears and anxieties.

Beyond the Stage: The Impact of Exeter Performance Studies

The research conducted at Exeter Performance Studies does not remain solely within academia. The faculty and students engage in outreach activities that bring the Theatre of Horror to a wider audience.

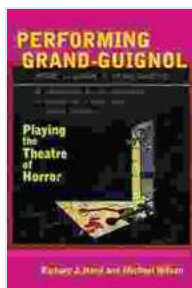
Exeter partners with local theatre companies to present workshops and performances that explore horror in different contexts. They also host public lectures and symposia that bring together scholars, artists, and the general public to discuss the cultural significance of horror.

Through these initiatives, Exeter Performance Studies contributes to the ongoing dialogue about horror in society. They foster a deeper appreciation for the complexities of the genre and its ability to provoke thought, fear, and reflection.



The Theatre of Horror is a captivating and complex genre that continues to fascinate and provoke audiences. Exeter Performance Studies offers a comprehensive exploration of this genre, examining its literary roots, performance practices, historical evolution, and modern manifestations.

Through rigorous scholarship, innovative research, and outreach activities, Exeter Performance Studies plays a vital role in advancing our understanding of the Theatre of Horror. Their work not only contributes to academic knowledge but also enriches the cultural landscape by engaging with the community and fostering a deeper appreciation for this captivating genre.



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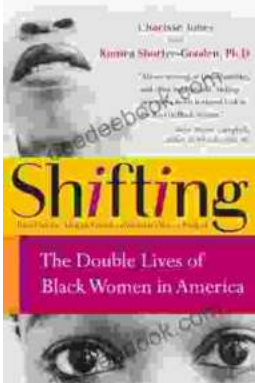
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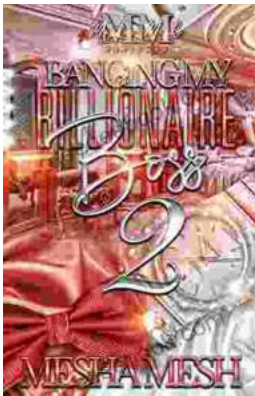
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