

Stages of performing in Pahlavi Iran 1925–1979

A workshop at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect

With the introduction of European drama in the mid-19th century, a new model of theatre emerged in Iran, which in the 20th century developed from a previously amateur activity into an established cultural institution of modern society. In contrast to the processes of social change in Pahlavi Iran (1925–1979), the cultural-historical relevance of the performing arts has not yet been fully explored.

For a holistic approach, this workshop will look at different forms of stage art, including dance, theatre, musical theatre and festivals. The neglect or separate consideration of the musicological aspects of the performing arts reinforces the importance of these forms.

In the context of global theatre histories, understood as the historiography of connections, interweaving, exchanges and dis:connections, the workshop covers a wide range of subtopics. Contributions range from the development of dramatic art and literature in the early Pahlavi era, social criticism and state ideology in the dramatic arts, to opera and stage dance in the late Pahlavi era. The aesthetics of unconventional stages, the theatre of the absurd and the Shiraz Arts Festival are addressed along with biographical approaches to the history of women in theatre.

During the two days of the workshop, we will engage in intensive dialogue on these topics. We will also discuss the increasing methodological obstacles to fieldwork and archival work in the region.

Your participation is understood to imply consent to photographic and video recordings for internal purposes, scholarly communication and publicity. Should you have any concerns, please contact Sophie Eisenried at sophie.eisenried@lmu.de.



Käte Hamburger
Research Centre
global dis:connect

Stages of performing in Pahlavi Iran 1925–1979

Concept and organisation:

Nic Leonhardt
global dis:connect

Anna Heller
Philipps-Universität Marburg

11–12
April
2024



Please register by 8 April 2024:

<https://www.globaldisconnect.org/registration/>

A link will be sent for remote participation upon registration.

Käte Hamburger
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global dis:connect
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Thursday, 11 April 2024

10:00 Registration & coffee

11:00 Welcome and introduction

Nic Leonhardt & Anna Heller

11:30 DRAMATIC ARTS IN THE EARLY PAHLAVI ERA

Chair: Emil Madsen Brandt

Fahimeh Najmi (Paris 8 University), Theatre as a propaganda tool in the early Pahlavi era [1925-1941]: a study on the effect of censorship and the establishment of thoughts training organisation on Iran's performing arts

Anna Heller (University of Marburg), Addressing the female pioneers of the theatre: Loreta Hayrapetian's biography in the context of a feminist theatre history

13:00 Lunch break @ global dis:connect

14:00 DANCE AND OPERA

Chair: Babak Rahimi

Elaheh Hatami (Berlin), Emerging ambiguity: Western modernity and Iranian stage dance

Nic Leonhardt (global dis:connect, Munich), 'Write a dance' – Nilla Cook's theatrical mission in Tehran in the 1940s

Sahereh Astaneh (University of Salzburg), The first Iranian opera productions at Rudaki Hall, 1967-1979

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 OPEN FORUM – THEATRE PRACTICE IN IRAN – IRANIAN THEATRE ABROAD

Chairs: Nic Leonhardt, Behzad Zerehdaran

Guests: **Mirella Oestreicher & Pooyan Bagherzadeh**

18:00 Dinner @ ChuChin Vietnamese Restaurant (<https://chuchin.de>)

Friday, 12 April 2024

10:00 SITES OF SPECTACLE

Chair: **Elaheh Hatami**

Tea Pitiurishvili (Tbilisi State University), Shiraz arts festivals: practicing universalism in neo-Achaemenid style

Azadeh Ganjeh (University of Hildesheim), Unconventional stages: exploring the aesthetics of site-based theatre in late Pahlavi Iran

11:30 Coffee break

12:00 DRAMA AS CRITIQUE

Chair: **Sahereh Astaneh**

Behzad Zerehdaran (University of Marburg), Tales of a trembling throne: theatrical representations of mad kings and regicides in the age of Aryamehr

Babak Rahimi (University of California, San Diego), The absurdist theatre of Abbas Nalbandian: experimental theatre

Emil Madsen Brandt (University of Copenhagen), Drama as a locus of ideology in late Pahlavi Iran: the case of Bijan Mofid's Shahr-e Qesse

13:30 Lunch break @ Café Mona (www.cafebar-mona.de)

15:00 ROUNDTABLE

Workshop results and publication planning