

Edward Gordon Craig: His Legacy

Saturday September 25th 2010, 10.00am-4.15pm

Convener: Jane Collins

Chair: Professor Christopher Baugh

TIMETABLE

10.00-10.30 am Coffee

10.30 am Keynote Speaker, Sir Michael Holroyd: *Craig: The Forgotten Modernist*

A biographical and historical perspective, this talk suggests some early influences on Craig's visionary ideas from his extraordinary theatrical pedigree. Sir Michael will also chart Craig's development as a European Modernist during a long, wayward life in exile that led to his achievements being largely forgotten by the end of his career.

11.15 am Liam Doona: *Second Thoughts are Best: Edward Gordon Craig and an Education Through Theatre Design.*

Craig's vision of theatre making was one of ongoing reinvention; to turn over what had been and to look for new 'truths'. It required a mastery of the multiple domains of theatre practice: the visual, the performative and the technical as well as an acute engagement with the intangible, the poetic and perhaps the spiritual. This paper will focus on the UK; to provide a sense of the emergence and development of theatre design as a site of study and to place Craig's vision of the 'theatre athlete' in the context of contemporary theatre design education. Perhaps a hundred years on from 'On The Art of the Theatre', this is a good time for 'second thoughts'; to review and evaluate Craig's legacy and influence and to consider what advice he might have for us in contemplating the next hundred.

11.45 am Tessa Sidey: *Creative Image Maker: Edward Gordon Craig's Achievements in the Visual Arts.*

In his own lifetime and beyond, Craig's immediately recognisable wood-engravings, woodcuts and etchings were widely exhibited both domestically and internationally. The speaker will argue that these images also had an important place in the wider creative revolution of content and medium explored by twentieth-century artists.

12.15-12.45 pm Discussion

12.45-1.00 pm Kate Bailey and Jane Collins: *Interpreting Craig for New Audiences*

Kate Bailey, Curator of *Space and Light: Edward Gordon Craig*, will introduce the exhibition and shall discuss interpretation of the subject, the creative process and the engagement of new and international audiences with Craig's work. Scriptwriter Jane Collins will provide insight into the development and production of an audio script for the exhibition.

1.00-2.30 pm Lunch

1pm AND 2pm Delegates to gather in groups on the landing outside the Auditorium. The first group shall be guided to the exhibition at 1pm, the second at 2pm. Please feel free to browse the Society of Theatre Research bookstall.

2.30 pm Dinah Casson: *Edward Gordon Craig on My Shoulder*

Between 2005 and 2007, my design company Casson Mann worked on a project in Moscow about Stanislavski. We are museum and exhibition designers and are normally given a list of objects, a storyline and a schedule of learning outcomes and so on, but for the Stanislavski project we had nothing so we embarked upon a remarkable journey of discovery, and, like all good journeys of discovery, it hasn't yet ended. Craig's presence accompanied us, as did Stanislavski's, and we now begin to understand the nature of the overlap between these two time-based experiences: theatre and exhibitions. In my talk I will explore this overlap and the difficulties that arise when one form is asked to explore the other.

3.00 pm Professor Dorita Hannah: *Craig's Space- in- 'Motion'*

Professor Hannah will discuss Craig's influence on performance space and the paradox in his discourse between the void (an 'absolute space') and his scene (an 'archetypal architecture') presented in relation to its potential in creating contemporary sites for performance.

3.30pm Discussion and closing comments

4.15 pm Close of Study Day

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SPEAKERS

Kate Bailey

Kate Bailey is an Exhibition Curator and Producer, working (part time) with the Theatre and Performance Department of the V&A. Kate has curated *Space and Light: Edward Gordon Craig* and has produced a number of successful exhibitions at the V&A including: *The Half: Photographs of Actors by Simon Annand* (2008); *In Praise of Shadows* (2009); *A Great Night Out! History of the West End* (2003) and *Collaborators: UK Design for Performance* (2007). Kate has worked extensively on the design and content development of new museums and exhibitions seeking innovative interpretative and display solutions to complex and challenging subjects. Projects include the Stanislavsky Museolobby, Moscow; films at the Churchill Museum; Exhibitions aboard Queen Mary II; *Children and War* in the Big Picture Show at IWM North; *Deadlines* at Flanders Fields Museum; International Centre for Life, Newcastle; Worcester Cathedral and the theatrical interpretation of Benjamin Franklin House and Leighton House Museum.

Professor Christopher Baugh

Christopher Baugh is Professor of Performance and Technology at the University of Leeds. As a scenographer he has worked in Bristol, California, Oregon, Manchester, London and with the Abbey Theatre, Dublin winning a New York Drama Critics Tony Award for *The Borstal Boy*. With Mecklenburgh Opera he won the Prudential Award for Opera. He has written *Garrick and Louthembourg* (1990); 'Stage Design from Louthembourg to Poel' in Donohue, J (ed.) *The Cambridge History of British Theatre*, (2004); and, 'Scenography and Technology 1737-1843' in Moody, J & O'Quinn, D (eds.) *The Cambridge Companion to British Theatre, 1737-1843*, (2007). His book *Theatre, Performance and Technology: the Development of Scenography in the 20th Century* (Palgrave, 2005) was nominated in 2007 by the United States Institute of Theatre Technology for a Golden Pen Award.

Dinah Casson

Dinah Casson set up her design practice in 1970 and began her partnership with Roger Mann in 1984. Since then, the practice has worked on interior, architecture, product development, theatre and museum projects. Most of their work over the last 15 years has been in the museum sector and includes galleries for the V&A (British Galleries, Portrait Miniatures), the Science Museum (*The Garden, Who Am I?, In Future*), the Imperial War Museum (*Crimes Against Humanity*), Churchill Museum (Cabinet War Rooms) and temporary and travelling exhibitions for the V&A (*Art Deco 1910-1939*), the Imperial War Museum (*Camouflage, For Your Eyes Only*) and the Design Council (*Great Expectations*). They have also designed galleries in Moscow, New York and Italy. Current projects are in Canterbury, London, Philadelphia, New York, and the Middle East. Dinah Casson and Roger Mann were both elected as Royal Designers for Industry in 2006.

Jane Collins

Jane Collins is a Reader in Theatre at Wimbledon College of Art. She is a writer, director and theatre maker who works all over the UK and internationally. She is the co-editor of *Theatre and Performance*

Design: a Reader in Scenography which was published by Routledge in January 2010. This book, with over 52 texts, is the first of its kind in this field. She also wrote the audio script for *Space and Light: Edward Gordon Craig*.

Liam Doona

Liam Doona is the Head of the Department of Art and Design at the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology in Dublin. A practicing theatre designer, he is a member of the Society of British Theatre Designers and of the Association of British Theatre Technicians. He also writes articles for *The Blue Pages*, the journal of the Society of British Theatre Designers. His study of American stage designer Jo Mielziner, 'Hope, hopelessness; presence and absence', was recently included in *Theatre and Performance Design: A Reader in Scenography* (Routledge) January 2010. Liam has taught Theatre Design at the University of Central England, Bretton Hall College and Nottingham Trent University. He recently co developed Ireland's first honours degree in the field of scenography: Design for Stage and Screen, and is currently designing for York Theatre Royal, England and Ouroborus Theatre, Ireland.

Professor Dorita Hannah

Dorita Hannah is an architect, scenographer and Professor of Design at Massey University's College of Creative Arts, where her creative work and scholarly research focus on the intersection between space and performance. She has published on practices that negotiate between art, design, architecture and theatre, including co-editing *Performance Design* and a themed issue on *Performance/Architecture* for the *Journal of Architectural Education*. Dr Hannah is on the Board of Directors for PSi (Performance Studies International) and is Vice-chair of the History & Theory Commission for OISTAT (International Organisation for Scenographers, Theatre Architects & Technicians). She is currently the international commissioner and exhibition designer for the Architecture Section in the 2011 Prague Quadrennial.

Sir Michael Holroyd

Recognised as one of the most influential of contemporary biographers, Sir Michael Holroyd has written the lives of Lytton Strachey, Augustus John and Bernard Shaw. His most recent book, *A Strange Eventful History: The Dramatic Lives of Ellen Terry, Henry Irving and Their Remarkable Families*, is a group biography of Henry Irving, Ellen Terry and her son Edward Gordon Craig. He is President Emeritus of the Royal Society of Literature and holds honorary degrees from the Universities of Ulster, Sheffield, Warwick, East Anglia, Sussex and the London School of Economics. He was awarded the CBE in 1989 and a knighthood in 2007 for services to Literature.

Tessa Sidey

Tessa Sidey is Assistant Keeper of Fine Art at Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery with a particular interest in twentieth-century graphics. She regularly works with contemporary artists; most recently in the areas of photographs and public art commissions. Formerly at York City Art Gallery, she has curated a number of print exhibitions including *Edward Gordon Craig, an Exhibition of Wood-engravings and Woodcuts* (1982), *Patrick Proctor Prints 1959-1985* (1985), *Sharp Voices, Still Lives: Birmingham*

Photography in the 1980s (1990) and *The Prints of Michael Rothenstein 1950-1990* (1990). She is a regular contributor to *Print Quarterly* magazine.