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HOW THEATRE MIRRORS REALITY: SOME CRITICAL ASPECTS OF THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN MAINSTREAM PERFORMANCES

Theatre continues not just to mirror reality but to mediate and shape what we imagine is possible,” states Jill Dolan in her book “The feminist spectator as critic” (2nd edition 2012). Taking this statement as a starting point, the presentation analyzes two recent mainstream performances, “Women of Niskamäe” by Vanemuine Theatre in Estonia and “The Sleepers” by Lithuanian National Theatre from the perspective of how women are represented on stage. The presentation shows that even though the main characters are strong and powerful women, at the same time, their agency is still very much defined by the male directors who staged these productions. How to overcome this issue as a feminist spectator?

Biography

Hedi-Liis Toome (PhD) is a lecturer of theatre studies at the University of Tartu. Her research interest are the relationship between theatre and society, the functions and values of theatre and reception and audience research. She is also the organizer of an annual Estonian performing arts festival Draama.