### **Summaries**

### Dieter Schlenstedt: Volker Braun's new Story, Die hellen Haufen

In 2011, Volker Braun published a new story, *Die hellen Haufen*. It is the continuation of previous work in which he deals with the fates of workers after 1989 in the process of East German transformation process. Schlenstedt's review highlights the art of Braun's narrative, the contradictory union of a strict commitment with reality with the fantasy that emerges from what is possible. It shows the bitter experience of failure, as it merges with a mobilising sense of the unaccomplished.

#### Karl Heinz Götze: Conversations with the late Heiner Müller

The article presents the German edition of Müller's »Conversations« between 1966 and 1995. It follows Müller's trail of nomadic speech and writing, tries to catch up with it momentarily, and resorts to overlapping points such as »communism«, »art«, »metaphor« and »death«.

## **Detlef Kannapin: The Present Ones**

Kannapin begins his review of GDR (German Democratic Republic) and post-GDR books and films by considering the many who, overwhelmingly influenced by neoliberal ideological constructs, live completely in the present: They see history as something forever passed and the future as the repetition of the eternal same. Under such conditions, the history of the GDR does not appear as something which should be analyzed from its beginning and its authentic revolutionary aims but as a phenomenon serving only as a – mostly black and dirty – mirror of present lifestyles and feelings. Only a few books and films, the author holds, open a window to what made the GDR different from both former and present bourgeois society.

### Renate Ullrich: If there is anything to be Learned from Theatre in the GDR ...

As H. Müller observed, theatre in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) did not remain on the sidelines of social conflicts – neither on those of the cold war nor of the internal conflicts regarding the building of East German society. In cases in which theatrical productions were too critical, censorship was practiced. The article does not deal with this. Instead, it asks why and how the political relationship of trust between theatre and citizens was created. Various processes illustrate that this sensitive relationship was the result of decades-long work, whose specific basis were financially-secure working conditions in the theatres (property relations, planned economy); the concept of (cultural) politics in the GDR (access to art for all); and according to Brecht, permanent cooperative communication of those working in theatre on the changing role of theatre in a changing society, and efforts to develop both the art of theatre and the art of spectatorship.

Summaries IX

## Hans-Christian Stillmark: On the Dramatic Arts. The End of Historical Drama

The essay sketches the development of historical drama as a sub-genre of dramatic arts and theatre of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). In particular, the crisis of historical drama is shown to parallel the increasingly problematic nature of socialist society's historical development. This is illustrated with regard to the dissolution of the unified dramatic subject and of unified action, as well as to the discontinuity of dramatic space-time. At the end of the GDR's existence, innovative solutions offered by authors like Müller, Hein and Braun created challenges for theatres which tried to stage them; this, in turn, led to a number of modifications and changes to theatrical practice, both before and after 1989. This amounted to a renewal of Brecht's theatre of social change.

# Ursula Schröter: Women were the Miracle on the Other Side. On East German »Sociocultural Inventory« and Socialist Patriarchy

The article reflects on the experiences of East German women before and after 1990. Ursula Schröter presents the western feminist argument that »capitalism works only with patriarchal« and completes it with the East German experience: »patriarchy also works without capitalism«. 20 years after the societal changes in (East) Germany it is a topic ripe for thorough research in the social sciences.

### David X. Noack: The End of a Contender

After the insurrections and coups d'état in Tunisia, Egypt and Bahrain the so-called »Arab spring« began to get out of hand for the West. The uprising in Eastern Libya was not a peaceful demonstration but an armed insurrection. Faced with defeat, Libyan rebels were helped by former colonial powers who intervened to re-integrate Libya into an Atlantic economic order. Differences between the NATO powers are rooted in the dissimilar capital factions dominating among Western countries.

## Michael Paetau: Pirates at the Crossroads of Knowledge Formation

The article considers the radical changes currently undergone by knowledge formation, particularly a bifurcation that presents two rival principles: On the one hand, the proprietary principle of private commerce and profitable regulation (private copyright) and the attempt to secure it through specific technologies (»Rights Control Systems« and »Digital Rights Management«). On the other, free and community-based principles (»the commons«) with corresponding juridical, organisational and technological implementation (»Open Archives«, »Creative Commons«, »GNU-Public Licenses«, etc). This crossroads refers not only to access to societal knowledge but also to the possibilities of knowledge creation, its anchoring and dissemination. In this context, the Pirate Party is presented as the international political arm of various social movements against a situation which James Boyle has characterized as that of a »second enclosure«.

## Buchhandlungen, die das Argument-Verlagsprogramm führen

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Niederlande Utrecht De Rooie Rat, Oudegracht 65 (031-30-2317189)

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