

## Festive Launch of the **AGENT** Book Series

Location: Frascati, Nes 63, Amsterdam

Date: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> of June

Time: 18.00-19.00

Language: English, Entrance: free.

# AGENT Amsterdam

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of June at 18:00, preceding the SNDO graduation performances in Frascati, the new book series *AGENT - Amsterdam/Gent - New Theses in Performance Research* will be launched, officially presenting the first two issues published with Tectum Verlag. The series is a co-operation between Belgium and The Netherlands – two countries internationally known for their innovative and radical forms of experimental theatre.

*AGENT* is edited by Prof. dr. Kati Röttger (Head of the Institute of Theatre Studies, University of Amsterdam) and Prof. dr. Katharina Pewny (Director of research center S:PAM Studies in Performing Arts and Media at Ghent University). The book series aims to provide a public forum for the dissemination of excellent research in the field of Theatre and Performance Studies. It encourages outstanding young researchers to contribute their Master and PhD dissertations focusing on topics related to dance, theatre and performance in a global context.

**AGENT 1** presents Lonneke van Heugten's thesis: *Theatre as a Vortex of Behaviour in Dutch Multicultural Society*, written as the culmination of the Master International Performance Research (MAIPR) at the universities of Amsterdam and Warwick. Through a close analysis of a performance that never took place - *Aïsha and the Women of Madina* - the book exposes the theatre as an arena where issues of multiculturalism and freedom of speech collided well before the major events of 9/11 and the murders of Pim Fortuyn and Theo van Gogh. In 2011 the thesis won the first *Theaterscriptieprijs* of the Theater Instituut Nederland (TIN). The jury: "Critically and idealistically the author places the theatre maker at the centre of society. A must-read for whoever thinks that he knows 'the other'." Lonneke is currently writing her PhD at the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis.



Lonneke van Heugten

**Theatre as a vortex of behaviour  
in Dutch multicultural society**

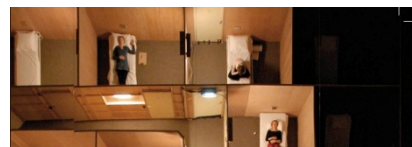
A discourse analysis of "Aïsha" in the public sphere



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**AGENT 2** presents Charlotte Gruber's thesis: *InterActions: Performing Actual and Virtual Spaces as Stages of Interest*, written in the frame of the Master Theatre Studies (UvA). Reconsidering theoretical concepts by Hannah Arendt and Guy Debord she conducted an analysis of twelve contemporary performances which took place outside theatre buildings and actively engaged participants. Critically addressing the use of new media, she examines the artwork's socio-political potential to create public spaces. This thesis was awarded the TIN *Theaterscriptieprijs* in 2012. The jury: "We have been impressed by the independent thinking with which the author develops the theoretical concept of 'performing a space' (actual and virtual) and a 'stage of interest'." Charlotte is now doing her PhD at research center S:PAM at Ghent University.



Charlotte Gruber

**InterActions**

Performing Actual and Virtual Spaces as Stages of Interest



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