Secret theatre

Off-the-grid performance practices in socialist Poland and Czechoslovakia

Ryabets, O.

Citation for published version (APA):
SECRET THEATRE: OFF-THE-GRID PERFORMANCE PRACTICES IN SOCIALIST POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT
ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
prof. dr. ir. K.I.J. Maex
ten overstaan van een door het College voor Promoties ingestelde commissie,
in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Aula der Universiteit
op woensdag 9 oktober 2019, te 11:00 uur
door Olga Ryabets
egeboren te Kiev
Promotiecommissie

Promotor: prof. dr. K.E. Röttger (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

Copromotor: dr. A.M. Kalinovsky (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

Overige leden: dr. E.R.G. Metz (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

dr. S. Bala (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

prof. dr. M.A. Kobialka (University of Minnesota)

prof. dr. M. Sugiera (Jagiellonian University in Krakow)

prof. dr. J.J.E. Kursell (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Acknowledgments

I would like to thank those who helped this project along the way: my mom, Iryna Yakovenko and my sister, Katerina Ryabets; my partner in crime, Kryštof Krása; my supervisors, Professor Kati Röttger and Dr. Artemy Kalinovsky; my colleagues and friends, who generously shared their input – Mykola Makhortykh, Olga Śmiechowicz, Tatiana Klepikova, Janko Polák and Jana Siren. Special thanks to Hotze Mulder for reminding me to stay calm. This project would not be possible without the generous support of the University of Amsterdam's PhD Finishing Fellowship and I would like to thank the Fellowship Committee and the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis for their confidence.
# Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION p.7

CHAPTER ONE. **History of Public Imagination – 1945 – 1989** p.16
1.1 Chapter Introduction p.16
1.2 Sovietization p.24
1.3 Soviet Imaginary Worlds p.32
1.4 Chapter Conclusion p.35

CHAPTER TWO. **Apartment as Heterotopia** p.36
2.1 Chapter Introduction p.36
2.2 The Non-Narrative Self at Home (the apartment blend) p.37
2.3 Notes on Soviet Domesticity p.40
2.4 The Apartment as a Heterotopia – Case Studies p.42
   - Theatre on Tarczyńska Street (Warsaw, 1955 – 58) and Teatr Osobny (Warsaw, 1958 – 63) p.43
2.5 Chapter Conclusion p.57

CHAPTER THREE. **Strange Places** p.60
3.1 Chapter Introduction p.60
3.2 Strange Places – Definition p.60
3.4 Chapter Conclusion p.69

CONCLUDING NOTES p.71
Table of Figures

Figure (1.1) p.74
“Overwhelmed with emotion, this Czech mother kisses a Russian soldier in Prague, Czech Republic on May 5, 1945, thanking one who fought to free her beloved home.”
Source: www.theatlantic.com

Figures (1.2 and 1.3) p.74
Two of the many photos depicting Soviet liberators with Czech children, almost always girls, dressed in national Czech costumes. Source: www.tumblr.com

Figures (2.1 and 2.2) p.75
The cover and inside pages of Przekroj magazine, 1956, showing scenes from Theatre on Tarczyńska

Figure (2.3) p.75
Theatre on Tarczyńska Osmędusze – Harfiarka, 1956. Source: Polish National Digital Archive

Figure (2.4) p.75
Lech Emfazy Stefański, 1957. Photograph by Irena Jarosińska. Source: www.news.o.pl

Figures (2.5 and 2.6) p.76
Source: Kirchner:1996, 156-157

Figures (2.7 and 2.8) p.76

Figure (3.1) p.77
Eduard Váček (right) early 1980's. Source: E. Vácek, personal archive

Figure (3.2) p.77
Cover of the Pataphysical journal Clinamen, 1994. Source: E. Vácek, personal archive

Figure (3.3) p.77
“Does your mother have a fur coat? Mine already lost hers!”, back cover of Clinamen, date of publication unspecified. Source: E. Vácek, personal archive

Figures (3.4 and 3.5) p.78
Snow race with award ceremony, Pataphysical event, early 1980's. Source: E. Vácek, personal archive

Figure (4.1) p.78
Collective Mapping, an imaginary attic. O.Krasa-Ryabets, Oporto, 2016