



Biographical Theatre: Re-Presenting Real People?

Ursula, Dr Canton

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While Kings and Queens have been regular visitors to British stages, recent decades have seen figures as diverse as Vincent van Gogh, Albert Einstein or the victims of extraordinary rendition flights giving their debut. This book addresses the growing popularity of performances that engage closely with the world outside the theatre and emphasises the crucial role of biographical representation in them.

It contributes to the current discussion of biographical and documentary performances by providing a new theoretical approach that overcomes both postmodern relativity and the simple dichotomy of fact and fiction.

On this basis, productions of seven plays are examined as examples of typical biographical formats. These include widely known plays such as *Copenhagen*, *Mary Queen of Scots Got her Head Chopped Off* and *Insignificance*, as well as more recent and lesser known productions like the documentary *Rendition Monologues* or *Thatcher - The Musical!*.

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