

Preface

Maja Šorli, Editor-in-Chief

The first *Amfiteater* symposium, organised in autumn 2017, has now yielded fruit: the thematic block herein on the theme of the castration of the political in contemporary Slovenian theatre, edited and presented by Tomaž Toporišič. In addition to eight articles in Slovene, equipped with detailed English summaries, we present an exceptional investigation by Eda Čufer of Marko Peljhan's project *Makrolab*, which – by confronting art and war – reaffirms the idea of the avant-garde at the transition from the 20th to the 21st century.

These nine articles are joined by three book reviews. Nika Arhar thoroughly outlines the circumstances of the development of puppetry art in the 20th century in Slovenia, described in the book by Edi Majaron *Vera v lutko* [Faith in the Puppet]. The book “astounds with a comprehensive overview of puppetry performances, texts and creative tendencies” as well as represents “a valuable document of the practice, understanding and players of puppet theatre in the second half of the 20th century for not only for puppetry creators, but also for fans of puppet theatre and puppets in general”. Kaja Kraner analyses Andrew Hewitt's *Social Choreography. Ideology as Performance in Dance and Everyday Movement*, in which the author conceptualises the intertwining of the aesthetic and the political in the field of choreography. The reviewer characterises the work as a surprisingly original contribution “toward the thinking on the otherwise considerably well-worn topic of the relations between aesthetics, art and politics”. Finally, Eva Pori examines Mateja Pezdirc Barol's monography *Navzkrižja svetov: študije o slovenski dramatik* [Conflicts of the Worlds: Studies on Slovenian Drama].

Before I close, I would just like to thank Tomaž Toporišič and the planning committee for their work on the *Amfiteater* symposium, all the speakers for their contributions, and the participants for their lively debate. At the same time, I also wish to thank Tomaž for his work in preparing the thematic block for this issue and the work of the authors in further preparing their texts for publication. May reading this issue of *Amfiteater* enhance your summer!

Translated by Jana René Wilcoxon