Non-naturalistic performance in political narrative drama: methodologies and languages for political performance with reference to the rehearsal, and production of E to the power 3 – education, education, education

Peters, L and Becker, S

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Chapter in Political Performances. Theory and Practice. Themes Theatre 4
Haedicke, Susan C., Deirdre Heddon, Avraham Oz and E.J. Westlake (Eds)
Amsterdam/New York, NY, 2009, IV, 379 pp. (Themes in Theatre 4)
Part 4 Practice
“Non-naturalistic performance in Political narrative drama: methodologies and
languages for political performance with reference to the rehearsal, and production of
*E to the Power 3 – Education, Education, Education.*”
Lloyd Peters and Sue Becker

The devised practice-as-research production *E to the Power 3 Education, Education,
Education (E3)* was first staged at The Robert Powell Theatre, Salford 25th-27th April
2002. Scenes from the production were then performed at The Lowry, Salford Quays
in June 2002. The production examined the political, cultural and psychological
influences that determine definitions of education. The fractured, stylised narrative
investigated current British education policy and, specifically, the arrangements for
regulation when an inspection team (OFSTED) descend on an inner-city "failing"
school.

The article explores the production’s notions of a re-defined ‘theatre of politics’ – a
union of traditional forms fusing, for example, “Epic” and British polemical
interventionist theatre techniques and genres. The chapter addresses the key research
questions that informed the practice:

a) How effectively can the combination of "Epic" with other expressionist
theatrical forms communicate contemporary political issues?
b) What new rehearsal approaches and methodologies can be devised to express
the political themes of the play?
c) Are there repeatable techniques that can be identified and employed in the
creation and/or adaptation of other productions?

The book and chapter have been reviewed by Pia Wiegmink, Johannes Gutenberg-
University Mainz,wiegmink@uni-mainz.de (http://journals.cambridge.org, IP address:
141.213.232.87). Draft papers of the article with video footage of the production
have been presented at: The University of Reading International Conference "Political
Futures: Alternative Theatre in Britain" in April 2004. The Clarice Smith Performing
Arts Center, University of Maryland, USA - IFTR (International Federation for

*E to the Power 3 Education, Education, Education (E3)* at The Robert