



Barend van Heusden

Barend van Heusden holds the chair of Culture and Cognition, with special reference to the Arts, in the Department of Arts, Culture and Media Studies at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. He is Director for the Humanities and member of the Board of Education of the University College Groningen (UCG), and advisor for culture education to the Minister of Science and Culture in Lower Saxony (D).

Van Heusden has published articles and books in the fields of literary and culture theory, semiotics and cognition, as well as arts and culture education. From 2009 till 2014 he supervised the Dutch national project 'Culture in the Mirror: toward a curriculum for culture education'. In this project, culture education was approached from a cognitive-semiotic perspective. A framework was developed that allows schools and teachers to design a culture curriculum tailored to the pupils' development and culture. In 2011, the Flemish government joined the project.

Personal homepage: www.rug.nl/staff/b.p.van.heusden/index
Homepage of the 'Culture in the Mirror'-projects:
www.cultuurindespiegel.nl and www.cultuurindespiegel.be

Light in Contemporary Theatre: Experience, meaning and autonomy

A colloquium at the State University of Groningen

Address: Doopsgezinde Kerk,
Oude Boteringestraat 33, 9712 GD
Groningen

Free entrance

Program

- 10:00 - 10:15 Reception
- 10:15 - 10:30 Introductions of the speakers and the program by **Prof. Barend van Heusden** and **Yaron Abulafia** (University of Groningen, NL)
- 10:30 - 11:15 Lecture 1# *Reflections on Theatre and Technology from an Intermedial Perspective* - **Prof. Chiel Kattenbelt** (University of Utrecht, NL)
- 11:15 - 12:00 Lecture 2# *Autonomy of Light as a Dramaturgical Feature in Theatre* - **Prof. Fabrizio Crisafulli** (The Academy of Fine Arts in Rome and RomeTre University, Italy)
- 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch break
- 12:30 - 13:15 Lecture 3# *The Analysis of Experience and Meaning of Light in Contemporary Performance: A New Conceptual Framework* **Yaron Abulafia** (University of Groningen, NL)
- 13:15 - 13:45 Round-table discussion with **Prof. Christopher Baugh** (University of Leeds, UK), **Prof. Fabrizio Crisafulli**, **Prof. Chiel Kattenbelt** and **Yaron Abulafia**
Chaired by **Prof. Barend van Heusden**
- 13:45 - Closure of the colloquium, and a walk to the Aula
- 14:30 - 15:45 PhD defence ceremony of PhD candidate **Yaron Abulafia**



Le addormentate, direction and lighting design: Fabrizio Crisafulli, 1995. In the picture: Daria Deflorian (ph.: Serafino Amato).

The Seagull, directed by Ira Avneri, lighting design: Yaron Abulafia, costumes: Dina Konson, 2013. In the picture: Gaia Shalita-Katz (ph.: Yaron Abulafia)



Christopher Baugh

Christopher Baugh FRSA FHEA is Emeritus Professor of Performance and Technology at the University of Leeds, and previously taught at the universities of Manchester, London Goldsmiths' and Kent. As professional scenographer he has worked in Bristol, California, Oregon, Manchester, London, and with the Abbey Theatre, Dublin winning a New York Drama Critics Tony 'best staged play' award for *The Borstal Boy*. He was resident scenographer with Mecklenburgh Opera (1987-1997) winning the Prudential Award for Opera, and he designed the Terezin operas (*Der Kaiser von Atlantis* and *Brundibar*) for them and for BBC Television in 1995. He has written the monograph *Garrick and Loutherboung* (1990) and a considerable number of book chapters and journal articles on the history and contemporary practices of scenography. His book *Theatre, Performance and Technology: the development of scenography in the 20th century* (Palgrave, 2005) was nominated and short-listed in 2007 by the United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT) for a Golden Pen Award, and its expanded second edition was published by Palgrave in 2013. He chaired the panel preparing the subject benchmark statement, *Dance, Drama and Performance* for the UK Quality Assurance Agency (2000-2007), and he was Chair of the Drama, Dance and Performing Arts sub-panel for the UK Research Assessment Exercise, RAE2008; he was a member of the New Zealand Research Assessment exercises in 2006 and 2012, and Deputy Chair of the Hong Kong Research Assessment exercise in 2014. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2005, and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in 2007. He was a founding director of the Society of British Theatre Designers (SBTD).

Fabrizio Crisafulli

Fabrizio Crisafulli is a theatre director and visual artist. He runs the theatre company *Il Pudore Bene* in Vista based in Rome, which he established in 1991. Fabrizio's production work includes space and lighting design, and he also creates installations in addition to the company's activities. He works in Italy and various European and non-European countries. The defining aspects of his work are his use of light as an independent subject of poetic construction, and what he defines as the "theatre of places" (treating the place as 'text' and a matrix for performances), involving research along with stage production. He teaches at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome and at RomaTre University. He holds workshops at universities, academies, festivals and theatrical organisations in Italy and abroad.

The following monographs have been dedicated to his work: *Place, Body, Light. The Theatre of Fabrizio Crisafulli, 1991-2011*, ed. by Nika Tomasevic, Dublin: Artdigiland, 2013; *La luce come pensiero*, ed. by Silvia Tarquini, Rome: Editoria&Spettacolo, 2010; *Fabrizio Crisafulli: un teatro dell'essere*, ed. by Silvia Tarquini, Rome: Editoria&Spettacolo, 2010; *Lingua stellare. Il teatro di Fabrizio Crisafulli, 1991-2002*, ed. by Simonetta Lux, Rome: Lithos, 2003; *Teatro dei luoghi. Il teatro come luogo e l'esperienza di Formia, 1996-98*, ed. by Raimondo Guarino, Rome: Gatd, 1998.

He is the author of: *Luce attiva. Questioni della luce nel teatro contemporaneo*, Titivillus, Pisa, 2007 (published also in English and in French); *Il teatro dei luoghi. Lo spettacolo generato dalla realtà*, Dublin: Artdigiland, 2015.

Chiel Kattenbelt

Dr. Chiel Kattenbelt studied Dutch Language and Literature at Radboud University Nijmegen (1975-1978) and Theatre, Film and Television Studies at Utrecht University (1978-1982). He started his academic career at the University of Amsterdam, where he was assistant professor in Theatre Studies from 1983-1985. Subsequently he went to Utrecht University where he currently works as associate professor – in this position since 1991 – in Intermediality and Media Comparison. Within the Department of Media and Culture Studies he teaches in different programs, in particular in the BA Media and Culture, in the MA's Theatre Studies and New Media and Digital Culture, and in the Research MA Media and Performance Studies. In teaching as well as in research, his fields of interest are theatre and media theory, intermediality and media comparison, and aesthetics and semiotics (these combined in a pragmatic-phenomenological approach). From 2002 till 2007 he was also professor at the Theatre Academy Maastricht (Zuyd University), where he led an interdisciplinary research program on new theatricality with particular emphasis on public sphere, language and technology. In particular in this position he became familiar with artistic and practice-based research. In cooperation with performance and video artists, technicians and dramaturges he has developed a so-called techno-lab for teaching and research purposes.

Yaron Abulafia

Yaron Abulafia is a PhD candidate at the State University of Groningen and a professional artist-in-light who has designed over 200 theatre and dance performances, installations, concerts and television shows internationally. He has designed for the Netherlands Dans Theater, the English National Ballet, Rambert Dance Company, Staatsballett Berlin, Ballet BC in Vancouver and the Hungarian State Theatre of Cluj in Romania – to mention but a few. In his PhD research *Performing Light: Experience, Meaning and Autonomy of Light in Contemporary Theatre*, Abulafia explores and discusses the evolution of lighting design against the background of developments within the contemporary theatre. The dissertation has been accepted by Routledge for a commercial publication under the title: *The Art of Light on Stage*. He holds a Masters degree (M.F.A.) in Scenography from the Frank Mohr Institute in Groningen, and B.A. in theatre studies from Tel Aviv University in Israel. Abulafia is regularly invited as a guest lecturer in universities and art academies around the world, and was honoured to take part as a jury member in the most distinguished international exhibition of performance design – *World Stage Design 2013* – organized by OISTAT organization once in 4 years. For designing 'Peer Gynt' (Romania, 2008), he has won the First Prize for lighting design (supported by PHILIPS), and has been nominated for the Knight of Illumination 2011 ('Awakening', Rambert, UK) and the lighting design prize for theatre ('In the Solitude of Cotton Fields', Israel, 2011).