



Why Theatre?

Edited by Kaatje De Geest, Carmen Hornbostel & Milo Rau

With an introduction by Milo Rau



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For two years now, the **Belgian Theatre NTGent** and the **Berlin-based**

Verbrecher Verlag have been publishing the series **The Golden Books**: books on the theory and practice of contemporary performance art, on individual plays and general social questions.

For the 5th volume, after months of cultural lockdown, when live arts were in a state of emergency, and the whole institution rethought its priorities, NTGent asked 100 of the most influential artists and intellectuals in the world the question: **Why theatre?**

Why is this art form so unique, so beautiful, so indispensable? From classical theatre to performance art and dance, from activism to political theatre and the performativity of everyday life, authors of all continents and generations delivered short essays, memories, manifestos, letters. Moments of aesthetic epiphany meet strong emotion, critical insights into the problems of representation and populism compete with utopian texts about the theatre of the future. An instant encyclopedia of theatre for this and for any time, with 108 contributions such as Mohammad Al Attar, Ann Teresa De Keersmaeker, Hsin-Chien Huang, Stefan Kaegi (Rimini Protokoll), Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Angélica Liddell, Ariane Mnouchkine, Toshidi Okada, Thomas Ostermeier, Botho Strauss, Ivo van Hove, Alain Platel, Tiago Rodrigues and many, many more

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