

ARTS RESEARCH CENTRE

OUTPUT INFORMATION

Title:

"Cheers, Grandad": Third Angel's Cape Wrath and The Lad Lit Project as Acts of Remembrance

Output Type:

C - Chapter in book

Book title:

Staging Loss: Performance as Commemoration

Publisher:

Palgrave Macmillan

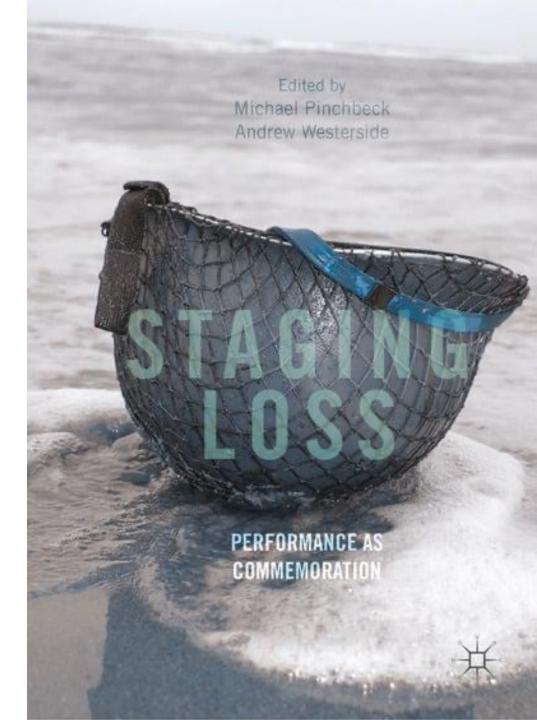
ISBN:

978-3-319-97970-0

Year of publication:

2018

Output allocation:
Performance studies



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This book locates and critically theorises an emerging field of twenty-first century theatre practice concerned, either thematically, methodologically, or formally, with acts of commemoration and the commemorative. With notions of memorial, celebration, temporality and remembrance at its heart, and as a timely topic for debate, this book asks how theatre and performance intersects with commemorative acts or rituals in contemporary theatre and performance practice. It considers the (re)performance of history, commemoration as a form of, or performance of, ritual, performance as memorial, performance as eulogy and eulogy as performance. It asks where personal acts of remembrance merge with public or political acts of remembrance, where the boundary between the commemorative and the performative might lie, and how it might be blurred, broken or questioned. It explores how we might remake the past in the present, to consider not just how performance commemorates but how commemoration performs.

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My grandad travelled to Cape Wrath on Tuesday 20th September 1988, and in 2011, the 20th September was again going to fall on a Tuesday. This felt too good a coincidence to miss, so I booked my journey for exactly the same dates.

8 hours by coach to Inverness.

5½ hours by (mini)bus to Durness; the 804, the longest stopping bus route in Britain.

Overnight in a hostel.

A 2 mile walk to the ferry point.

20 minutes in an 8-person boat across the Kyle of Durness.

30 minutes by minibus to the Cape Wrath lighthouse.

It was only having got there that I realised, to my own surprise, that this journey was, of course, an act of remembrance. I decided that I would go and drink a shot of his favourite whisky for him. I don't like whisky, and I don't know very much about it. But I do know that his favourite whisky was Famous Grouse, so that's what I drank.

Extract from "Cheers Grandad! Third Angel's Cape Wrath and The Lad Lit Project as Acts of Remembrance" by Alex Kelly, published in 'Staging Loss: Performance as Commemoration' edited by Michael Pinchbeck, and Andrew Westerside

Keywords:

Performance

Autobiography

Remembrance

Links:

https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783319979694#aboutBook https://thirdangel.co.uk/blog/staging-loss

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