



# REVALUING THEATRICAL HERITAGE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

An international conference held by the  
**Vrije Universiteit Brussel** and **Ghent University**  
in association with **Artesis University College**  
and with support from **FWO-Vlaanderen**

Schouwburg Kortrijk (Belgium)  
22-23 January 2013

*Despite eye-opening discoveries, exhibitions and performances, many valuable holdings of theatrical heritage continue to linger in oblivion. A stunning exemplar is the recently unearthed 'Dubosq collection' at the Cultuurcentrum Kortrijk: a near-complete ensemble of drops, flats and props from the Belle Époque. How do such time capsules affect our understanding and appreciation of historical staging practices? Under which conditions should these vulnerable, excessively rare artifacts be preserved and manipulated? And which challenges and opportunities arise from their reuse on the modern stage?*

**REVALUING THEATRICAL HERITAGE** aims to address these and related issues from a broader perspective. Scholars, performers, directors, conservators and administrators will share experiences and results of recent projects and work in progress. There will be sessions dedicated to novel methods, historically informed productions of opera, archives, endangered and restored architecture, scenography, and puppetry.

Conference languages: English and French.

More info: e-mail Prof. Bruno Forment  
([bruno.forment@vub.ac.be](mailto:bruno.forment@vub.ac.be))

*This conference will host the modern world premiere of  
Johann Christian Bach's **ARTASERSE (1760)** performed  
by the Antwerp Conservatoire in authentic Comédie-  
française scenery (1913) restored by the Royal Academy  
of Fine Arts, Antwerp.*



- 16.30 - 17.15 Coffee break *Foyer*
- 17.15 - 18.00 **Keynote address** by Michael Burden (Professor of Opera Studies and Dean of New College, University of Oxford; Director of the New Chamber Opera, UK): “Divas, arias, and acrimony; the revolving door of musical resources for London’s Italian opera” – followed by discussion
- 18.00 - 20.00 Dinner break
- 19.30 Introductory lecture to the opera by Bruno Forment (in Dutch) *Foyer*
- 20.15 **Opera performance: the modern world premiere of Johann Christian Bach’s *Artaserse* (1760) staged in Albert Dubosq’s *Palais romain* (1913)** *Schouwburg*
- Production by Artesis University College, Antwerp
- Ildiko Van Dyck – Artaserse; Naomi Beeldens – Semira; Rik Willebrords / Sandro Rossi – Arbace; Charlotte Cromheeke – Mandane; Dick Vandaele – Artabano; Alexandra Franck – Megabise
- Early Music orchestra of the Flemish Music Conservatoire Antwerp (10 violins, 5 violas, 3 cellos, 2 double-basses, 2 oboes, 2 flutes, 2 natural horns and harpsichord)
- Conductor: Ewald Demeyere  
 Stage director: Anne-Guersande Ledoux  
 Stage set restored by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Antwerp  
 Critical edition of the score: Vinciane Baudhuin, Ewald Demeyere & Bruno Forment

### Wednesday, 23 January – Muziekcentrum Track

- 8.30 - 9.30 Registration and coffee *Reception hall*
- 9.30 - 12.00 **Session 4 (parallel with session 5): *Artaserse* then and now**  
 Chair and moderator: Bruno Forment
- Margaret Butler (University of Florida, USA): “Unfortunate *Artaserse*: Producing J.C. Bach’s Opera in Turin, 1760”

Round table with Margaret Butler, Griet Blanckaert (restorer of the stage set, Koninklijke Academie voor Schone Kunsten, B), Ewald Demeyere (conductor and editor of the score, Artesis Hogeschool, B), and Anne-Guersande Ledoux (director)

9.30 - 12.00 **Session 5 (parallel with session 4): From performance to archive**

Chair: Christel Stalpaert (UGent)

Riemer R. Knoop (AHK Reinwardt Academie, NL): “Assessing the collections of the Netherlands Theater Institute”

Thomas Crombez (Universiteit Antwerpen, B): “History is made of paper: revaluing historical theater reviews”

Bart Magnus (Vlaams Theaterinstituut, B): “Toneelstof: a dynamic online platform for discursive performing arts history”

Patrick Primavesi (Universität Leipzig, D): “Politics of tradition: revaluing the GDR Dance Archive in Leipzig”

11.30 - 14.00 Lunch break

Guided tour of Kortrijk’s historical center

14.00 - 16.30 **Session 5 (parallel with session 6): Theater architecture in good and bad days**

Chair: Chris Van Goethem (Rits, B)

Frank Peeters (Universiteit Antwerpen, B): “*O tempora, O mores*. Neglect and destruction of Antwerp theater architecture in the Golden Sixties.”

Jerome Maeckelbergh (OISTAT, B): “The ‘Bourla’ case in Antwerp: a completely functioning machinery from 1830 on the brink of dismantlement?”

Maryse Lavrard (Communauté d’agglomération du Pays Châtelleraudais, F): “Histoire de la restauration de l’ancien théâtre à l’italienne de Châtellerault”

Iain Mackintosh & David Wilmore (Theatresearch, UK): “James Winston – *The Theatric Tourist* back on the road”

14.00 - 16.30 **Session 6 (parallel with session 5): Puppetry in motion**

Chair: Evelien Jonckheere (UGent)

Staf Vos (Het Firmament, B): “Puppetry in motion: in search of good practices to safeguard intangible heritage”

Raphaèle Fleury (Institut International de la Marionette, F): “De la conservation à la production d’archives: le Portal des Arts de la Marionnette, témoin de nouvelles ambitions pour le patrimoine du spectacle vivant”

Geert Souvereyns & Inge Geysen (Bruggemuseum, B): “Puppet theater *Den Uyl* (Bruges): from museum storage to the stage”

Thomas Weynants (Visual Media, B): ““Oh. You shall see vat [sic] you shall see.’  
Theatrum Mundi puppets and moving panoramas on the fairgrounds of Ghent and Paris,  
c. 1900”

16.30 - 17.00 Coffee break

17.00 - 18.00 **Closing discussion**

19.00 **Farewell dinner**

*Parkhotel*

## REGISTRATION FORM

To be returned, either by e-mail to [Bruno.Forment@vub.ac.be](mailto:Bruno.Forment@vub.ac.be), or by ordinary mail to Revaluing Theatrical Heritage, p.a. Deken Degryselaan 26, 8500 Kortrijk, Belgium

### Information for the name tag

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact details

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/province \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP / postal \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

My e-mail address may appear in the list of delegates: yes / no

0 confirms his/her attendance to the conference (the registration fee includes full program with abstracts and coffee breaks, and is payable in cash to the registration desk)

Both days: **€ 20,00**

Single day, 22 / 23 January: **€ 12,00**

0 shall attend the farewell dinner at Parkhotel: **€ 55,00** (appétitif with amuses-gueulles, starter, main course, dessert and coffee, wines and water included; payable at the restaurant)  
vegetarian: yes / no

0 tickets for *Artasense* are € 19,30 and can be reserved via [cultuurwinkel@kortrijk.be](mailto:cultuurwinkel@kortrijk.be)

Signature

Date