

PROLEGOMENA FOR RESEARCH OF THE CROATIAN LAY THEATER: THE EXAMPLE OF EXILE THEATER WORKSHOPS

SUMMARY

Considering that lay theater in general and Croatian lay theater in particular is a rather neglected domain of research, the author reflects upon contributions in this field until now, as well as about the possible future prospects of the research, especially in the realm of folkloristics as its legitimate methodological context, pleading for detailed ethnographies of lay productions, interdisciplinarily informed, largely depending on the study of given extra-theatrical goals which usually follow or dominate aesthetic pretenses of lay theater. She then gives an account of different theater productions created by and for child exiles in several Croatian towns (Zagreb, Pula, Veli Lošinj...) since the beginning of the war. Taking place where camps are situated, in settings new and unfamiliar to the exiles, these theater actions often were the sole means of bridging and softening the gap between the "newcomers" and the "indigenes". That is why they are observed here as projects which are open to psycho-, ethno-, sociological and aesthetic examinations.