

PROGRAMME

33rd Annual CDE Conference, Konstanz (Germany), 19-22 June 2025
New Stages for Sex, Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Theatre

www.cde-2025.de

THURSDAY, 19 JUNE

09.00–16.00	PhD forum (led by Clare Wallace and Chris Megson)	<p>Eštoř, Tomáš: “Intersections Between Queer Theory and Leftist Politics in Anglophone Drama”</p> <p>Karaköse, Onur: “Dramatizing Mass Shootings on the Contemporary American Stage: Theater and the Public – Negotiation of a Nation in Crisis”</p> <p>Knijff, Alba: “Feminist Ontologies in 21st Century British Theatre”</p> <p>Manzella, Charlotte: “Temporalities in Contemporary British Climate Change Theatre”</p> <p>Polák, Ondřej: “Animatedness in Contemporary American Drama”</p> <p>Sutherland, Andrew: “The Virus as Future’s Ghost: Performing the undetectable status as hauntology of possible futures”</p> <p>Thomas, Jade: “The Playtext as (In)Visible Mediator: How Metadrama Negotiates Dramatic Representations of Blackness”</p> <p>Vass, Eszter: “Trauma and Metatheatre in Contemporary Anglophone Drama”</p> <p>Welton, Emma: “Camp Re/production: Queer-Feminist Performance in Austerity London (2014-2024)”</p> <p>Ye Chengyao: “Staging Real-Life Nazi Perpetrators: The Dramaturgies and Ethics of Holocaust Theatre”</p>
14.00–18.00	Arrival and registration	
18:00-19:00	Dinner	
19.00–21.00	<p>Welcome (Kerstin Schmidt, President of CDE) and “Charting New Stages: An Introduction” (Leila Michelle Vaziri, Christina Wald)</p> <p>Keynote</p>	<p>Lynette “Lennox” Goddard: “Acting Against Homophobia and Transphobia: Activism, Human Rights, and Solidarity in Black British LGBTIQ+ Performance”</p>

FRIDAY, 20 JUNE

09.00–10.30	Panel I – Staging Queerness (chair: Ralph Poole)	<p>Stephen Greer: “Trigger Warnings, Self-Care and New Writing on the British Stage”</p> <p>Amy Terry: “Where Are All the Butches? The Liberating Potential of Illegibility in Queer Performance”</p> <p>Heidi Liedke & Sarah Busch: “‘The system is failing, all of us’: Queering as (Re)directing in <i>I, Joan</i> (2022) and <i>Birds and Bees</i> (2023) by Charlie Josephine”</p>
10.30–10.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10.45–12.15	Panel II – Queer Temporalities and Spaces (chair: Ondřej Pilný)	<p>Eva-Maria Windberger: “Complicating Queer Singaporean Theatre History: Ng Yi-Sheng’s <i>Desert Blooms</i> as Documentary Theatre”</p> <p>Aloysia Rousseau: “‘There’s nothing but delight and desire’: The Poetics and Politics of Pleasure in Charlie Josephine’s <i>Cowboys</i>”</p> <p>Benjamin Poore: “Exploding History: Queer Temporalities and Forging Queer Connections in Contemporary Playwriting”</p>
12.30–13.30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00–15.30	Panel III – Bodies and Sexuality (chair: Gemma Edwards)	<p>Ellen Grünkemeier: “Matthew Lopez’s <i>The Inheritance</i> (2018): Performing an Intergenerational Dialogue About (Homo)Sexuality”</p> <p>Edyta Lorek-Jezinska: “‘Delicate, honest and raw’: Reclaiming Sexuality in the 2020s Plays by Disabled Playwrights”</p> <p>Sara Reimers: “Authentic Casting: Gender, Sexuality and Representation in Contemporary UK Theatre”</p>
15.30–16.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16.00–17.30	Panel IV – Gender, Violence and Censorship (chair: Janine Hauthal)	<p>Lesego Chauke: “Of Dogs that Bark in the Night: Dramaturgies of Queering in Qondiswa James’ <i>A Faint Patch of Light</i>”</p> <p>Alex Watson & Kit Narey: “‘be it on the street or on the stage’: Situating the Politics of ‘the Stage’ in Recent Trans Performance”</p> <p>Elisabeth Knittelfelder: “Shifting the Conversation: Testifying Perpetrators in the Workshop Play <i>#JustMen</i>”</p>

18.00–19.00 *Dinner*

20.00–21.00 Playwright in Conversation

Charlie Josephine

SATURDAY, 21 JUNE

09.00–10.00 Keynote

Fintan Walsh: “Dances with death: Grief as a kind of movement”

10.00–10.30 *Coffee Break*

10.30–12.00 Panel V – Theatre and Trans*
(chair: **Jonas Kellermann**)

Dorothee Birke & Sarah Back:
“Transcending Gender, Transcending Genre:
Embodied Selves in the Performances of
Travis Alabanza and Kama La Mackerel”
Elisabeth Massana: “‘Dysphoria Mundi’:
Raving Against Time in Charlie Josephine’s *I, Joan*.”

Xavier Lemoine: “Trans Intersectional
Poetics: *Firebird Tattoo* by Ty Defoe”

12.00–13.00 *Lunch*

13.00–14.30 Assembly of members

15:00 Departure Hegne

Train Departure 15.22 (arrival 15.35)

15.45–17.15 **Roundtable**
“New Stages for Sex, Gender and
Sexuality in Contemporary Theatre:
Practical Perspectives”
(Spiegelhalle, Theater Konstanz)

Lea Seiz, dramaturgical team Theater
Konstanz
Rachel Hann, Associate Professor of
Performance and Design and Expert on
Scenographics, Transness and Costume
(Newcastle)
Jennie Reznek and **Mark Fleishman**,
Artistic Directors of Magnet Theatre (Cape
Town)

17.30–18:30 *Dinner* (Konstanz)

Restaurant Wessenberg
Wessenbergstraße 41
78462 Konstanz
<https://wessenberg.de/>

19.00–c.
21.00 **Theatre performance** (Konstanz,
Münsterplatz)

SUNDAY, 22 JUNE

09.00–10.00	Playwright in Conversation	Stef Smith
10.00–10.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10.30–12.00	Panel VI – Feminist Stages (chair: Anja Hartl)	<p>Hannah Greenstreet: “Staging the Politics of Desire in Ella Hickson’s <i>The Writer</i> (2018), <i>Swive: Elizabeth</i> (2019) and <i>[Anna]</i> (2019)”</p> <p>Clare Wallace: “Feminist Interventions: Gender Politics at the Abbey Theatre since 2016”</p> <p>Trish Reid: “Zinnie Harris: Disrupting the Inevitable Flow of Tragic Time”</p>
12.00–12.30	Closing Remarks	Chris Megson, Kerstin Schmidt, Merle Tönnies, Anette Pankratz, Martin Riedelsheimer & Eckart Voigts
12.30–13.30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.30	Departure	