

Drama and Performance Seminar, Lent 2026

**'Playing on the Truth:
Early Twentieth-Century Histories of Women, Leadership and Creativity'**

Professor Catherine Hindson, University of Bristol

Thursday, 12th February 2026 at 17h00
Judith E. Wilson Drama Studio, Faculty of English

CATHERINE HINDSON is Professor of Theatre History at the University of Bristol. Her work examines histories of theatre and performance in the long nineteenth century, covering celebrity, heritage, ghosts, well-being, community performance, and arts in industry. Her publications include *Female Performance Practices on the Fin-de-Siècle Stages of London and Paris* (2007), which examines experiments in non-scripted performance, cabaret, song, dance and impersonation by a group of female performers at the turn of the century; *London's West End Actresses and the Origins of Celebrity Culture, 1880-1920* (2016), which retraces the histories of stardom, celebrity culture, charity work and fundraising to the late nineteenth century theatre; and *Theatre in the Chocolate Factory: Early Twentieth Century Performance at Bournville* (2023), which considers how theatre and performance shaped the cultural lives of industrial communities in the early twentieth century; alongside numerous pieces in edited collections and journals. She has recently co-edited and written for the two volume *Routledge Companion to Twentieth Century Theatre and Performance* (2024; 2025). She has worked extensively with theatres, theatre ensembles and cultural organisations including the Bristol Old Vic, the Rowntree Society, Bournville Village Trust, Unilever archives, Port Sunlight Village Trust and York Theatre Royal.

In conversation with

Professor Richard Schechner, New York University

Thursday, 5th March 2026 at 17h00
GR06/07, Ground Floor, Faculty of English

RICHARD SCHECHNER is University Professor Emeritus at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. He is a performance theorist, theatre director, author, editor and one of the founders of performance studies as a discipline. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Public Domain* (1968), *Environmental Theater* (1973), *Performance Theory* (1976), *The Future of Ritual* (1993), *Between Theater and Anthropology* (1985), *Performance Studies: An Introduction* (2002) and *Performed Imaginaries* (2015) which have been translated into eighteen languages. He is the editor of *TDR: The Drama Review* and series editor of *Enactments* (Seagull Books) and *Worlds of Performance* (Routledge). He has been the recipient of numerous fellowships, including ones from the Guggenheim Foundation, the NEH, the ACLS and held visiting positions at Dartmouth, Cornell, Yale, Princeton and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. He has also founded the New York based experimental theatre company *The Performance Group* and, later, *East Coast Artists*, and directed a range of productions including *Dionysus in 69* (1968), *Commune* (1970), *Faust/gastronome* (1993), *YokastaS* (2003 and 2005), *Swimming to Spalding* (2009) and *Imagining O* (2011, 2012 and 2013). His directorial work has been widely shown across Asia, Africa, Europe and North America and a collection of his plays and performance texts has recently appeared with Intellect in 2025.

This session will be predominantly discussion-based. We will circulate a selection of Prof. Schechner's writing in advance of the seminar, which we will subsequently discuss with him over its course.

‘Theatre and Marxism(s)’

Dr Michael Shane Boyle, Queen Mary, University of London

Thursday, 12th March 2026 at 17h00
Judith E. Wilson Drama Studio, Faculty of English

MICHAEL SHANE BOYLE is Senior Lecturer in Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies at Queen Mary, University of London. His work concentrates on the political economy of performance, postdramatic theatre, live art and activist performance in the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including *The Arts of Logistics: Artistic Production in Supply Chain Capitalism* (2024), shortlisted for the Deutscher Memorial Prize, has co-edited *Postdramatic Theatre and Form* (2019) and is currently completing a book titled *Theatre and Marxism* (forthcoming with Bloomsbury in 2027). He undertook his doctoral work at UC Berkley and has held postdoctoral appointments at Stanford University, Harvard University and, most recently, a visiting fellowship at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre at the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich.

‘Theatre, Therapy and War’

Hossam Madhoun

Monday, 16th March 2026 from 15h00 until 19h00
Judith E. Wilson Drama Studio, Faculty of English

HOSSAM MADHOUN is a theatre maker, playwright and writer who worked in Gaza City for more than thirty years before being displaced to Egypt in April 2024. With Jamal Al Rozzi, he co-founded the Theatre for Everybody in Gaza in 1987. Since 2009, he has been collaborating with London’s Az Theatre through the *Gaza Drama Long Term* partnership, producing a range of plays, workshops, performance projects (live and virtual) and exhibitions including *Breathing Space* (2009), *Opening Signs* (2011), *War&Peace* (2013), *Here, There, Everywhere* (2017), more information about which can be found [here](#). One of his recent projects (again with the Az Theatre and Artists on the Frontline) includes *Another Day: Messages from Gaza* (London, 2023), a live reading of accounts sent by him from Gaza since October 2023, which you can read and listen to [here](#). He is currently a fellow at the Centre for Contemporary Theatre at Birkbeck, University of London. Alongside his work for the theatre, he has also worked with the Ma’an Development Centre, a Gaza-based NGO, and developed a range of drama therapy programmes for children affected by conflict.

This session will be comprised of two parts. It will begin with a workshop, 15h00 until 17h00, followed by an artist’s talk, 17h30 until 19h00.