

CURRICULUM VITA

REBECCA LAUGHLIN ROVIT

ADDRESS

The University of Kansas Department of Theatre (School of the Arts) 1530 Naismith Drive; 317 Murphy Hall
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. (Theatre) Florida State University, August 1989

Dissertation: "The Marionette as an Ideal in Acting: Duality Resolved in Craig's Übermarionette, Meyerhold's Biomechanics, and Schlemmer's Stage Workshop."

M.A. (German), University of Virginia. Genre of specialization: Drama. May 1985

B.A., (English & German), Bucknell University. June 1981. Post-graduate study, literature, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany (1981-1983).

AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST

Theatre History (emphasis on Modern European); Jewish Cultural Activity during the Holocaust years; Dramatic Literature; German Theatre, Performing Trauma and Genocide

Special Research Skills:

Fluency in German and French (reading and writing) Interviewing experience in the US and in Western Europe with émigré artists and Holocaust survivors

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre (tenure-track), University of Kansas University, August 2009-Present. Independent Scholar, 1994-2008. Visiting Assistant Professor, Theatre & Drama Dept., Indiana Univ., Bloomington, Spring 1993. Assistant Professor, Dept. of Theatre, Illinois State Univ., 1990-1991 (tenure-track). Instructor, Dept. of English, Univ. of Kentucky, 1989-1990.

Courses Taught at KU:

THR 308, Script Analysis; JWSH 300/ THR 302/THR 702, Theatre and Genocide; THR 526, Theatre History II; THR 901, Modern German Drama; THR 302/702, Theatre Seminar in Theatre and the Holocaust; THR 922: Theatre Historiography

Additional teaching duties:

Advise doctoral research, M.A. Theses, UG research projects Serve on graduate student committees

Affiliated KU Faculty: Jewish Studies, CREES

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

The Jewish Kulturbund Theatre Company in Nazi Berlin. Series: Studies in Theatre History and Culture, Thomas Postlewait, editor. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, September 2012.

Theatrical Performance during the Holocaust: Texts, Documents, Memoirs, edited by Rebecca Rovit and Alvin Goldfarb. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999 (Paperback, 2002). Series: Performing Arts Journal. *Selected by the Jewish Book Council as a 1999 Finalist for the Morris J. and Betty Kaplun Foundation Award, National Jewish Book Award, Holocaust.

Articles and Book Chapters:

*asterisk denotes peer-reviewed journal

*Invited Guest Editor, *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, Special Section on "Witnessing History: Performing Drama," forthcoming, spring 2013.

*"Cultural Ghettoization and Theatre during the Holocaust: Performance as a Link to Community." *The Journal of Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 19.3 (2005): 459-486.

."A Concert of Words: Theatrical Performance at Auschwitz." In *The Last Expression: Art and Auschwitz*, edited by David Mickenberg, Corinne Granof, and Peter Hayes, 105-113. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2003.

. "A Carousel of Theatrical Performance in Theresienstadt." In *Art, Music, and Education as Strategies for Survival*, edited by Anne D. Dutlinger and the Payne Gallery of Moravian College (Pennsylvania), 123-143. New York: Herodias, 2001.

"Jewish theatre: repertory and censorship in the Jüdischer Kulturbund," in *Theatre under the Nazis*, edited by John London, 187-221. Manchester (U.K.): Manchester University Press, 2000.

* "The Brundibár Project: Memorializing Theresienstadt Children's Opera." *PAJ 65: A Journal of Performance and Art* 22.2 (May 2000): 111-122.

"Towards German Unification: Performance Within the Threshold." *Contemporary Theatre Review* 4 (1995): 173-195. Special issue: "No Man's Land:" East German Drama After the Wall, edited by David W. Robinson.

"Collaboration or Survival, 1933-1938: Reassessing the Role of The Jüdischer Kulturbund" in *Theatre in the Third Reich, The Prewar Years: Essays on Theatre in Nazi Germany*, edited by Glen W. Gadberry, 141-156. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1995.

11. * "An Artistic Mission in Nazi Berlin: The Jewish Kulturbund Theatre as Sanctuary." *Theatre Survey* 135.2 (1994): 5-17. [Reprinted with revised ending in *Theatrical Performance during the Holocaust: Texts, Documents, Memoirs*, edited by Rebecca Rovit and Alvin Goldfarb, 28-39. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999]

*"Emerging From the Ashes: The Akko Theatre Center Opens the Gates to Auschwitz." *The Drama Review* 37.2 (1993): 161-173.

*"A Glimpse into the Life and Work of Aleksandr Galin: An Interview." *Soviet and East European Performance* [now called *Slavic and East European Performances*] 10.1 (1990): 125-139.

. * "Crossing Cultures: Aleksandr Galin's The Roof at Florida State University." *The Drama Review* 34.3 (1990): 177-183.

* "Alcestis: How Myth Means and Functions." *Text and Presentation: Journal of the Comparative Drama Conference* (Comparative Drama Papers IX), 1989: 125-139.

Encyclopedia, Book Reviews and Web-based Essays:

"The Jewish Kulturbund Theatre" [German language publication]. *The Encyclopedia of Jewish History and Culture*, vol. III, edited by Dan Diner, Simon Dubnow Institute, Leipzig. Stuttgart (Germany): Metzler Verlag, 2013 (forthcoming).

Essays for global online portal, The Holocaust Theatre Collection. Sponsor, Moti Sandak (Israel), All About Jewish Theatre, website, phase 1 (Nazi Germany, Terezín), launch 19 January 2012, Berlin, Wannsee House, Germany.

"Brundibár: A Children's Opera at Terezín, 1943-1944," forthcoming

"Zdenka Ehrlich-Fantlová on the Terezín Stage," forthcoming

"The Jewish Kulturbund Theatre," forthcoming

Book Review. Jeannette R. Malkin and Freddie Rokem (eds.) *Jews and the Making of Modern German Theatre. Shofar: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* 30.4 (Summer 2012).

Book Review Essay. Edna Nahshon (ed.) *Jewish Theatre: A Global View*; Jeannette R. Malkin and Freddie Rokem (eds.) *Jews and the Making of Modern German Theatre. Journal of Jewish Identities*, 42 (July 2011).

"Theatre Performance during the Holocaust years," in *Music during the Holocaust* (online resource, a project of the World ORT---the international Jewish educational organization). Project Director, Dr. Shirli Gilbert. Fall 2007. <http://holocaustmusic.ort.org/>.

Book Review. Guido Fackler, "*Des Lager Stimme*": *Musik im KZ. Alltag und Häftlingskultur in den Konzentrationslagern 1933-1936. German Studies Review* (May 2003): 442-443.

"Theatrical Performance at Auschwitz-Birkenau: Official and nonofficial theatrical, dance and cabaret performance by prisoners. In "The Last Expression: Art from Auschwitz," website (2001-2002),

Northwestern University Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art, Evanston, IL:
<http://lastexpression.northwestern.edu>

Book Review Essay. Edna Nahshon, *Yiddish Proletarian Theatre: The Art and Politics of the ARTEF, 1925-1940* and Nahma Sandrow, ed., *Man, God, and Devil: Yiddish Plays in Translation*. *Theatre Journal* 52.3 (2000): 434-36.

Book Review Essay. Carl Weber, ed., *DramaContemporary: Germany*; Michael Taub, ed., *Modern Israeli Drama; JTD: Haifa University Studies in Jewish Theatre and Drama*. *Theatre Survey* 38.2 (1997): 207-212.

Book Review Essay. James Fisher, ed., *The Puppetry Yearbook*, vol.1; Harold B. Segel, *Pinocchio's Progeny*; Laurie J. Sears, *Shadows of Empire: Colonial Discourse and Javanese Tales*. *Theatre Survey*

38.1 (1997): 201-205. "Michael Frayn" in *Encyclopedia of British Humorists*, vol. I, 398-404. New York:

Garland Publishing, Inc., 1996. Book Review. Steve Tillis, *Toward an Aesthetics of the Puppet: Puppetry as a Theatrical Art*. *Theatre*

Journal 46.2 (1994): 301-302. "A Theatrical Lens on the Holocaust," *American Theater*, January 1993: 50-51.

"Brecht Our Contemporary: Berlin in Crisis," *American Theater*, April 1992: 46-48.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Invited Guest Speaker, "The Jewish Kulturbund Theatre." Symbolic launch of online portal, The Holocaust Theatre Collection, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference. All About Jewish Theatre (Israel), Berlin-Wannsee House, Germany, 19 January 2012.

"Site Specific: Performing Trauma at Auschwitz-Birkenau, 1943-1944." American Society for Theatre Research, Montreal (Canada), 17-20 November 2011.

"A Jewish Theatre Company in Nazi Berlin," invited speaker for Friends of the Hall Center program, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, 5 May 2011.

"Theatrical Performance and Survival at Auschwitz-Birkenau," brownbag lecture for Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies, University of Kansas, 12 April 2011.

"Reclaiming the Jewish Body in Performance: Nazi Germany's Kulturbund Theatre." American Society for Theatre Research, Seattle, 17-20 November 2010.

"Cultural Dislocation and the Jewish Kulturbund Theatre." Keynote address for "Society, Friendship, and Love: The Depiction of Interpersonal Relationships in German Language and Literature." German Graduate Conference Students Association, University of Kansas, Max Kade Institute, Lawrence, Kansas, 19 February 2010.

"Cultural Dislocation and the Jewish Kulturbund Repertory in Nazi Germany." American Society for Theatre Research, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 12-15 November 2009.

Lecture, "The Jewish Kulturbund Theatre in Nazi Germany: Identity and Repertory." Research Seminars on the Theory, Practice and History of Performance, 11 February 2009. Goldsmiths Department of Drama, University of London, United Kingdom.

"Theatrical Performance at Auschwitz: A Concert of Words." Art-making, Survival, and Resistance in the Nazi Concentration Camps, symposium. Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL., 6 October, 2002.

"Theatre Art within the Holocaust." Annenberg Distinguished Visiting Speaker Series, History Department, University of Pennsylvania, 7 March 2002.

"Cultural Ghettoization and Theatre during the Holocaust: An Extension or a Deadend?" Culture in Ghetto Settings, Europe, 1933-1945, museum program. Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., 30 July 2001.

Radio Interview by Alisa Solomon, "Theatre Culture during the Holocaust," WBAI, New York, Beyond the Pale: The Progressive Jewish Radio Hour, 21 May 2000.

Consultant on set and costume designs by František Zelenka, and exhibit panel author for art exhibition, Art, Music, and Education as Strategies for Survival at Moravian College (Bethlehem, PA), 10 February-11 March 2000.

"A Carousel of Theatrical Performance in Theresienstadt." Art, Music, and Education as Strategies for Survival," symposium, Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 10-11 February 2000.

**Ten additional presentations delivered prior to 2000. List available upon request.*

GRANTS, HONORS, AWARDS

University of Kansas:

Kimbell Faculty Enrichment Grant, Department of Theatre. Travel to Berlin, Germany, to support presentation at the launch of the Holocaust Online Theatre Collection. House of the Wannsee Conference in Berlin, 19 January 2012 (awarded \$1200)..

New Faculty Research Grant (NFRG), University of Kansas, Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies, 27 May 2011. Exploratory research project, "A Theatre for the People and the GDR, 1946-1962." Principal Investigator.

KU CLAS Faculty Travel Award, 2011. For conference in Montreal, (Canada) on November 17-20, 2011 (awarded \$700).

KU CLAS Faculty Travel Award, 2010. For conference in Seattle WA, on November 17-21, 2010 (awarded \$700).

KU Hall Center for the Humanities, Friends of the Hall Center Publication subvention award, 2010 (awarded \$500).

Stipend (\$850) for Internationalizing the Curriculum. Award for developing course in Theatre and the Holocaust. International & Global Awareness Programs. University of Kansas. May 2010.

KU CLAS Faculty Travel Award, 2009. For conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico on November 17-20, 2009 (awarded \$700).

External Funding:

Fellowship, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), for research visits to the Stiftung Archiv Akademie der Künste (Academy of Arts), Berlin, Germany (August-December 2004). Principal Workshop Organizer, Summer Research Workshops for Scholars Program (two-week international workshop and symposium) "Culture in Ghetto Settings, Europe, 1933-1945." Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., 30 July-10 August, 2001 (awarded budget, \$20,000 +).

Fellowship, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (1997-1998). Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (July 1997-May 1998). Grant, American Philosophical Society (1996). Fellowship, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (1994-1995). Florida State University Dissertation Fellowship (1988-1989).

SERVICE

University of Kansas Service

Theatre Department:

Play Director, staged-reading of Robert Skloot, *If the Whole Body Dies: Raphael Lemkin and the Treaty Against Genocide*, William Inge Memorial Theatre, University of Kansas, 3 March 2011. Also coordinated visit of scholar and playwright Professor Emeritus Skloot (University Wisconsin-

Madison) to perform in his play. Events were co-sponsored by the School of the Arts, the Departments of Theatre, Political Science and the Institute for Conflict and Peace Studies. Member, University Theatre Committee, 2011.

Member, Ad hoc advisory committee on curriculum, 2011-2012. Co-sponsor (with Mechele Leon and Henry Bial), "Brecht Basics," a workshop for theatre students, 25 October 2010.

Member, Allocations Committee, 2010-2011. Member,

Committee on Scholarships and Awards, 2010.

University-wide:

Elected representative from College of the Arts and Sciences, Committee on evaluation of Chairs and Directors (CECD), 2011-2013. Jury Member, School of the Arts General Research Fund award committee, 2011-2013. Ambassador, Department of Theatre, Center for Teaching Excellence, 2010-present.

Representative, Learning Outcomes student writing assessment initiative, Provost for Academic Affairs and Learning Initiatives, pilot course THR526 (Theatre History II).

Professional National Service:

"Making a Holocaust and Theatre Electronic Archive," invited participation at conference of the National Jewish Theater Foundation/ Holocaust Theatre Archive Initiative (HTA), 15 May 2012, Coral Gables, FL.

Scholarly Adviser, The Holocaust Theatre Archive Initiative (HTA), Producer, Arnold Mittelman in progress, 2012+.

"Representing the Holocaust," Downward Spirals? Thinking "Crisis," panel respondent for Across the Disciplines, Mid-America Humanities Conference, Humanities & Western Civilization program, University of Kansas, 3 April 2010.

Reviewer for *The Journal of Dramatic Criticism and Theory*, University of Kansas, 2009-present.

Member, American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR).

List of additional national service before 2000 available upon request.

International Service:

Scholarly Adviser to The Jüdische Kulturbund Project, Producer Gail Prenskey (Washington, D.C, Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin, Germany), 2012+

Board Member and "Active Scholar" contributor, Holocaust Theatre Online Collection (HTC), All About Jewish Theatre, (Israel), Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, UNESCO. Responsible for writing 6+ scholarly articles for global website-in-progress, 2011+ Scholarly Adviser to Holocaust Theatre Archive Initiative (HTA), in progress, 2012

Reviewer of manuscripts submitted to various journals and presses.