



7th

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON US DRAMA AND THEATER

Of Mutability and Malleability.

Reimagining the Contours of US Theatre and Drama

Organizers:

Anouk Bottero,
Lara Cox,
Aurélie Guillain,
Emeline Jouve,
Sophie Maruéjols-Koch

Coordinator:

Emeline Jouve



THEATER

DRAMA

Toulouse 10-13 June 2026
UNIVERSITÉ TOULOUSE - JEAN JAURÈS

Program

Please note that this program is available online only, as part of the commitment of the CAS research center to the environment and sustainability.

Wed. 9:45-10:30 Registration, **Gai Savoir Hall**
Welcome coffee and pastries

Wed. 10:30-11:00 Welcome address, **Gai Savoir Auditorium (GA1)**

Wed. 11:00-12:00 **KEYNOTE 1, Gai Savoir Auditorium (GA1)** –**Donatella Galella** (University of California): “*Yellowface Without Yellowed Faces*»: *The Malleable Representation of Asians and Asian Americans in Twenty-First-Century Musical Theatre.*”
Chair: Michelle Granshaw (University of Pittsburgh)

Wed. 12:00-1:30 Lunch

Wed. 1:30-3:00 Panels

Panel 1, (GA 112)
“*Transforming the Popular*”,
TRADITIONAL PANEL,
organiser: Michelle Granshaw (University of Pittsburgh)

- **Mark Cosdon** (Allegheny College): “*Fabricated Myths: Little Nemo in Slumberland and Klaw and Erlanger*”

- **Chrystyna Dail** (Ithaca College): “*Molding Tituba: A Character Doing History’s Bidding*”

- **Michelle Granshaw** (University of Pittsburgh): “*Race, Equal Rights, and the Malleability of U.S. Theatre Infrastructure After the Civil War*”

- **Amy E. Hughes** (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor): “*Staging a ‘Good Death’: The Melodramatic Mutations of Pet Euthanasia*”

Wed. 3:00-3:30 Coffee break

Wed. 3:30-5:00 **KEYNOTE 2, Auditorium 9, Arche Building (AR09)** – performed reading of *Funnyhouse of a Negro* followed by «On Adrienne Kennedy,» discussion with **Lara Cox** (University Toulouse - Jean Jaurès) and **Marie Lefebvre** (Quetzal, UK)

Wed. 5:15-6:30 Tiers-Lieu - Drinks and appetizers, Concert by students from the Music Department, University Toulouse - Jean Jaurès

Panel 2, (GA 114)
“*Production and performance practices*”,
TRADITIONAL PANEL,
chair: J. Ellen Gainor, Cornell University

- **Caili Harris** (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University): “*Embodying Language: Theatre and Drama as a Tool for Virginia, USA Elementary School World Language Education*”

- **Diana Benea** (University of Bucharest): “*Malleability and Creative Resilience in Recent Community-based Youth Theatre in the US*”

- **Jeffery Kennedy** (Arizona State University, Tempe): “*The View from the Stage: Colonial America Performed*”

Panel 3, (GA 116)
“*Shifting Grounds: the Legacy of the SITI Company and the Mutable Ecosystem of Contemporary Actor Training*”,
ROUNDTABLE,
organiser: Christopher J . Staley (Texas Tech University)

With **Andres Acevedo** (URJC/ Instituto Alicia Alonso), **Gábor Viktor Kozma** (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania), **Daniel C. Dennis** (Ohio University School of Theater)

Thur. 9:00-10:30 Panels

Panel 4, (GA 1)
“*Pushing for New Boundaries: American Theatre Abroad, from Soft Power to Commodification?*”,
ROUNDTABLE,
organiser: Ramón Espejo Romero (University of Seville)

With **Michael S.D. Hooper** (Independent scholar, UK), **Emeline Jouve** (University of Toulouse - Jean Jaurès, France), **John Bak** (University of Lorraine, France), **Ramón Espejo Romero** (University of Seville, Spain)

Panel 5, (GA 112)
“*Politics and Performance*”,
TRADITIONAL PANEL,
chair: Samuel Malby (University of Toulouse - Jean Jaurès)

- **Agathe Faucourt** (Sorbonne University): “*How to write from your turmoil under Donald Trump’s first presidency: Malleability as method in Shipwreck: A History Play about 2017 by Anne Washburn*”

- **Hillary Miller** (Queens College, CUNY, New York City): “*Brotherhood is Passé: War on 13th Street, 1969-1973*”

Panel 6, (GA 114)
“*Ghosts and Reincarnations*”,
TRADITIONAL PANEL,
chair: Aurélie Guillain (University of Toulouse - Jean Jaurès)

- **J. Ellen Gainor** (Cornell University, Ithaca): “*The Echoes of Closing Doors, or, Why is the American Theatre Still Obsessed with Nora Helmer?*”

- **Lucija Periš** (Academy of Arts and Culture), **Josip Juraj Strossmayer** (University of Osijek, Osijek): “*Still Waiting: A Beckettian Reading of Suzan-Lori Parks’s Topdog/Underdog and Tarell Alvin McCraney’s The Brothers Size*”

- **Noelia Hernando Real** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid): “*The tempest in my mind Lauren Gunderson on Alzheimer Disease in The Heath (2019)*”

Panel 7, (GA 116)
“*Responding to Contemporary Change*”,
TRADITIONAL PANEL,
chair: Lara Cox (University Toulouse - Jean Jaurès)

- **Mònica Bru Cantero** (University of València): “*Surviving and Staging the Strangeness of the Anthropocene in Apocalyptic Black Comedies*”

- **Gary Lavenia** (University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès): *Chicago, New York, Paris: “All That Jazz” and its journey across different mediums, geographic, cultural, and linguistic borders*

- **Kelly Aliano** (LaGuardia Community College, New York City): “*The Mutability of the American Musical*”

Thur. 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

Thur. 11:00-12:30 **KEYNOTE 3, Gai Savoir Auditorium (GA 1)** – In Conversation with **Lindsey Ferrentino** (Playwright and Screenwriter). **Chairs: Julie Vatain-Corfdir (Sorbonne-Université, IUF ESTHER), Ramón Espejo Romero (University of Sevilla)**

Thur. 12:30-1:30 Lunch

Thur. 1:30-3:00 Panels

Panel 8, (GA 1)
Susan Glaspell Society Panel “Susan Glaspell and the Mutability of Literary Forms”,
ROUNDTABLE,
organiser: Noelia Hernando Real (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

With **Bryonie Carter** (St. Charles Community College), **Drew Eisenhauer** (University of Le Havre), **Jeffery Kennedy** (Arizona State University)

Panel 9, (GA 112)
“*Are Things as Bad as That? Possibilities for Political Theater in the Neoliberal Era*”,
ROUNDTABLE,
organiser: Ilka Saal (University of Erfurt)

With **Wendy Arons** (Carnegie Mellon University), **Agathe Faucourt** (Sorbonne University), **Ana Fernández-Caparrós** (University of Valencia), **Julie Vatain-Corfdir** (Sorbonne University)

Panel 10, (GA 114)
“*Science and Theatre*”,
TRADITIONAL PANEL,
chair: Sophie Maruéjols-Koch (University Toulouse - Jean Jaurès)

- **Mark Pizzato** (University of North Carolina, Charlotte): “*Uncle Tom’s Cabin as Melodramatic Monster or Tragicomic Mirror—through Neuroscience*”.

- **Susan Ellen Kattwinkel** (Charleston College, Charleston): “*Medical performance as catalyst: comparing the impact of incubator exhibits on medical practice in the U.S. and Europe*”.



Thur. 3:00-4:30 Panels

Panel 11, (GA 1)
Fornès Institute Panel
“*María Irene Fornés in Context*”,
TRADITIONAL PANEL,
organiser: Anne García Romero (University of Notre Dame)

With **Lilian Manzor** (University of Miami), **Elaine Romero** (University of Arizona), **Kenneth Prestininzi** (Connecticut College), **Anne García Romero** (University of Notre Dame)

Panel 12, (GA 112)
RADAC Panel
“*Re-envisioning Transformative Dynamics on the Contemporary Stage*”,
TRADITIONAL PANEL,
chair: Xavier Lemoine (University Gustave Eiffel)

- **Antoine Alario** (University of Paris 8): “*Can Queer Performances Be Subversive within US Culture?*”

- **Charalampos Kaveneidis** (Sorbonne University): “*Queer Eucharist: Ron Athey’s Four Scenes in a Harsh Life*”

- **Dinah Pedarros** (Paris Nanterre University, University Toulouse - Jean Jaurès): “*Mutability and Cultural Transfers: Topdog/Underdog by Suzan-Lori Parks on the French Stage*”

Panel 13, (GA 114)
“*Conflicts and Imagined futures*”,
TRADITIONAL PANEL,
chair: Lara Cox (University Toulouse - Jean Jaurès)

- **Megan Geigner** (Northwestern University): “*Staging Survival: Iraq, but Funny and the Future of Underrepresented Playwrights in Precarious American Theatres*”

- **Ana Fernández-Caparrós** (University of València): “*Quiara Alegria Hudes’s hospitable, matricentric expansion and reconfiguration of the borders of American Theatre.*”

Fri. 9:30 Morning Coffee

Fri.10:00-10:45 Book Presentation, **Gai Savoir Auditorium (GA1): Coyote: The Dramatic Lives of Sam Shepard (2025)**
- **Robert M. Dowling** (Central Connecticut State University).
Chair: Drew Eisenhauer (Université Le Havre Normandie)

Fri.10:45-12:15 Panels

WORKSHOP 1 (Panel 14)
(Room AR 033) (Arche Building)
“*Theatre of the Oppressed and the Staging of Social Change*”,
organiser: Erin Kaplan (Independent artist and scholar)

WORKSHOP 2 (Panel 15)
(GA 112 & GA 114)
“*María Irene Fornés Playwriting Workshop*”,
organisers: Anne García Romero (University of Notre Dame), Mariló Nuñez (York University), Kenneth Prestininzi (Connecticut College), Elaine Romero (University of Arizona)

WORKSHOP 3 (Panel 16)
(Room LA033) (Erasme Building)
“*Staging Meaning: Transformation of the actor’s body in modern American theatre*”,
organiser: Anaïs Umano (University of Lorraine)

Fri.12:15-1:45 Lunch

Fri.1:45-3:15 Panels

Panel 17, (GA 112)
“*Theatre Pathbreakers, or the Women of the Provincetown Players*”,
TRADITIONAL PANEL,
organiser: Noelia Hernando-Real (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

With **Carol DeBoer** Langworthy (Brown University), **Alex Roe** (Metropolitan Playhouse, director and producer of New York City Theater), **Angela Constantinidou** (independent scholar, director and actress), **David Roessel** (Stockton University), **Ren Bell** (Stockton University)

Reading of Neith Boyce’s *Hurricane* (1938) with **Ren Bell, Shilo Previti, Stamatia Kapetanou, Ermioni Vlachidou, and Grant McMillan**

Panel 18, (GA 114)
“*María Irene Fornés as Auteur: Playwright/ Director*”,
ROUNDTABLE,
organiser: Araceli González Crespán (University of Vigo)

With **Kenneth Prestininzi** (Connecticut College), **Araceli González Crespán** (University of Vigo), **Lilian Manzor** (University of Miami)

Panel 19, (GA 116)
“*Modernism in Historical Perspective*”,
TRADITIONAL PANEL,
chair: John Bak (University of Lorraine)

- **Adrian Arana Armesto** (University of the Basque Country): “*Power, Gender, and National Identity: dismantling the foundational myths in The Heidi Chronicles and The God of Hell*”

- **Daniel Abdalla** (University of Liverpool): “*Changing the Face of Modernist American Folk Drama: The neglected plays of W.E.B. Du Bois and Mary Austin*”

- **Katie Johnson** (Western College, Miami University of Ohio): “*The Mutability of Outcast Performance in Eugene O’Neill’s Plays*”

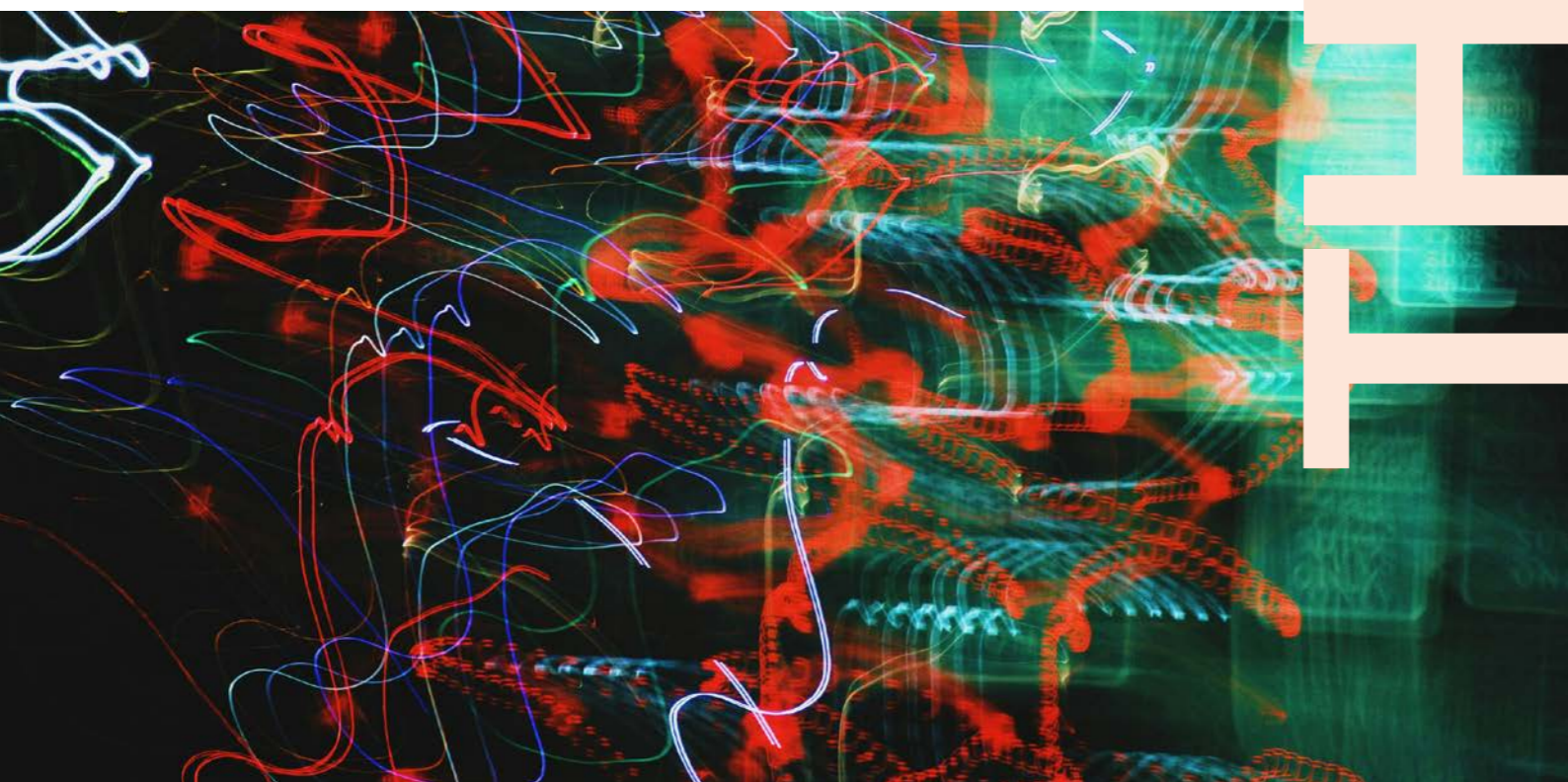
Fri.3 :30-4:30 **KEYNOTE 5, Gai Savoir Auditorium (GA1) – Cynthia Baron** (Bowling Green State University)
“*Re-imagining US Theatre History: Women’s Contributions to Twentieth-Century Actor Training*”,
chair: Sophie Maruejous-Koch (University Toulouse - Jean Jaurès)

Fri.4:30-5:00 **Gai Savoir Auditorium (GA 1)** Closing remarks

Wine & Cheese city tour of Toulouse
Sat. 10:30 meeting point **place du Salin**

Saturday
June 13

Friday
June 12



This conference is part of a European conference series on U.S. theatre, initiated in 2008 by researchers from the University of Málaga with the aim of fostering a dynamic of scholarly exchange. Hosting this conference in Toulouse is a sign of greater openness at the European level.

The theme of the 2026 conference, “Of Malleability and Mutability: Re-imagining the Contours of U.S. Theatre and Drama,” seeks to foreground the formal plasticity of U.S. theatre, as well as its circulation within and beyond national borders, and its malleability in the face of ecological, financial, and political crises, through the twin concepts of “mutability” and “malleability.”

Committees

Organising Committee

Members of the Organising Committee, as well as:
Anouk Bottero (INU Champollion, Albi / CAS, UT2J)

Lara Cox (CAS, UT2J)

Aurélie Guillain (CAS, UT2J)

Émeline Jouve (CAS, UT2J) – Coordinator.

Sophie Maruéjols-Koch (CAS, UT2J)

Scientific Committee

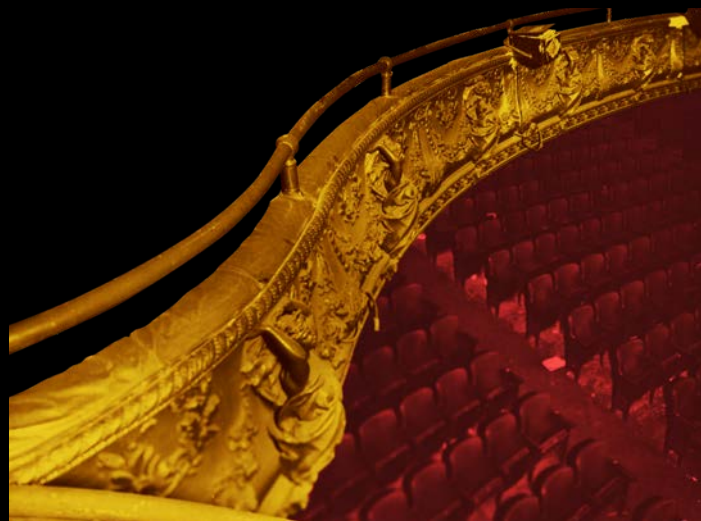
John Bak, Université de Lorraine (France).

Alfonso Ceballos Muñoz, Universidad de Cádiz (Spain)

Ramon Espejo Romero, Universidad de Sevilla (Spain)

Josefa Fernandez-Martin, Universidad de Sevilla (Spain)

Noelia Hernando-Real, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain)



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