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PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIVE THEATRE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ РОЗВИТКУ ЖИВОГО ТЕАТРУ В ЦИФРОВУ ЕПОХУ

Live theatre in the modern world remains one of the few art forms that does not lose its relevance even in the period of rapid development of digital technologies, streaming platforms and various forms of online entertainment. In the context of the spread of screen culture, theatre offers audiences a unique experience of direct communication between actors and spectators. This live interaction creates a special atmosphere of emotional involvement and shared perception that cannot be fully reproduced through cinema or digital media.

One of the distinctive features of theatre is its ability to create a unique communicative and emotional experience. During a performance, the audience shares the same physical and cultural space with the actors, observing the development of events in real time and responding emotionally to the stage action. Each performance becomes unique, as it depends on the actors' interpretation, elements of improvisation and the reaction of the audience. Even minor changes or spontaneous improvisational moments can generate new meanings and make every performance different. Such variability and immediacy of communication constitute one of the main advantages of theatrical art.

The actor also plays an important role in developing the imagination and emotional sensitivity of the viewer. Theatrical productions often employ conventional and symbolic means of expression such as minimalist scenery, symbolic imagery, lighting effects or plastic solutions. Under these conditions, the viewer actively participates in constructing the artistic world of the performance, interpreting meanings and contextual messages. Through the conflicts and experiences of the characters, the audience gains a deeper understanding of human emotions, social interactions and cultural perspectives.

In the context of globalization and intercultural dialogue, theatre can also function as an effective platform for cultural and linguistic communication. Performances presented in different languages or adapted for international audiences contribute to the dissemination of cultural values and promote the development of intercultural competence. In this regard, theatrical art can support the development of professional and cultural communication in foreign languages by providing authentic contexts of language use and cultural interaction.

Modern theatre is actively adapting to new cultural and technological conditions. Directors increasingly incorporate multimedia projects, video art, modern music and interactive elements into their productions. The integration of traditional dramaturgy with innovative technologies expands the expressive possibilities of the stage and enhances the communicative potential of theatrical performances.

A vivid example of such a combination of traditions and innovations is the activity of the National Theatre in London. This theatre actively uses digital technologies and multimedia solutions. In the project *Draw Me Close*, the spectator puts on a virtual reality headset and becomes a direct participant in the theatrical narrative, immersing themselves in the events of the performance. Such formats combine traditional theatrical storytelling with modern VR technologies and create new opportunities for audience engagement and perception.

In addition to its artistic function, theatre performs an important social and communicative role. The stage often becomes a space for discussing актуальные social

issues, historical events, questions of identity and moral choice. In this way, theatre encourages reflection, promotes critical thinking and contributes to cultural dialogue within society.

Another important function of theatre is the preservation and transmission of cultural heritage and national traditions. Through the staging of classical works and contemporary interpretations of dramaturgy, theatre maintains a connection between past and present and transfers cultural values to new generations. At the same time, artistic experimentation with new forms allows theatre to remain relevant in modern cultural conditions.

Thus, live theatre has significant prospects for development even in the digital age. The combination of traditional theatrical principles with modern technologies opens new opportunities for creativity, communication and audience interaction. The human need for live emotional contact, collective experience and cultural exchange ensures that theatre will continue to play an important role in the cultural and communicative space of modern society.

I. Balytska

HYBRID THEATRE: THE COMBINATION OF STAGE AND DIGITAL SPACE

І. Балицька

ГІБРИДНИЙ ТЕАТР: ПОЄДНАННЯ СЦЕНИ І ЦИФРОВОГО ПРОСТОРУ

Today theatre is going through a very interesting period. We are used to thinking that theatre is a stage and an audience hall, and that this was the only space for communication between the actor and the audience. Now we have another space — the digital one. Because of this, a new concept has appeared: hybrid theatre. In this kind of theatre, live performance is combined with online formats, video projection, and augmented reality.

Hybrid theatre is a modern form of theatrical art in which traditional stage elements (acting, scenery, light, and sound) are combined with digital, multimedia, or interactive technologies.

In 2019 our lives were shaken by the COVID-19 pandemic. No one understood what to do in such conditions. All areas of life that existed offline were affected, and theatre was not an exception. Hundreds of thousands of people in creative professions lost their jobs. Online communication and streaming became the only way to communicate with the audience. In this situation, hybrid theatre opened many new possibilities. For example:

- the opportunity to watch performances that are difficult or impossible to see live. For example, now when there is a war in the country and men cannot leave Ukraine, but they are connected with theatre art, they can still watch performances online.
- the opportunity for directors to play with space and time, to add video editing to scenes, to create more complex scenery, to combine stage elements with video projections, and to change the stage space through editing and visual transitions.
- the opportunity for students who study performing arts to watch more performances when they do not have money to attend a theatre in person.

Examples of hybrid theatre solutions used in the world:

1. “The Tempest” — Royal Shakespeare Company (United Kingdom)

Technologies: motion capture and real-time character rendering.

Idea: the character Ariel appears on stage as a live digital avatar controlled by an actor wearing a motion-capture suit.