

**MARZENNA WISNIEWSKA**

***Performing Theatre Archive: The Project  
"Dorman. Open Archive" in The Zbigniew  
Raszewski Theatre Institute in Warsaw  
(2016-2019)***

Jan Dorman (1912-1986) was the most recognisable Polish theatre artist of the avant-garde children and youth theatre of the second half of the 20th century. Over the years of his theatrical work, he created an impressive archive of his authorial performances and life. His archive has played the role of stage practices' laboratory, as well as an auto-archive. Like Tadeusz Kantor, Dorman was dreaming about a "living archive" - a performative space generating the circulation of his theatrical ideas and practices resulting in new artistic works. Dorman's archive was discovered and explored as a performative space during the three-year project "Dorman. Open Archive" (2016-2019) coordinated by The Zbigniew Raszewski Theatre Institute in Warsaw. It was the first so comprehensive project of performing archives in this institution, involving researchers and practitioners of the theatre. The concept of the performative archive was a theoretical and practical frame of practices carried out during the project "Dorman. Open Archive". My case study indicates performative interventions into Dorman's archive that became vehicles for exploring the present potential of his theatre ideas and practices, as well as reinterpreting Dorman's heritage in Polish theatre. The purpose of the presentation is to focus on new challenges for theatre archives as the performative archives.



**Bio:** Marzenna Wiśniewska, Ph.D., an assistant professor at the Institute of Culture Studies, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń/ Poland. Literary manager of Baj Pomorski Theatre in Toruń in the years 2001-2011. Main academic interests: theatre and cultural performances, history and theory of world puppet theatre, media in theatre, theatre for children and youth, theatre pedagogy, culture animation and management. Author of articles published in monographs and a co-editor of books: "Teatr wśród mediów" [Theatre among Media], Toruń 2015; "Teatr i dramat dla dzieci i młodzieży" [Theatre and Drama for Children and Youth], Toruń 2016; "Puppetry in the 21st Century: Reflections and Challenges" (Białystok 2019). She writes essays and reviews for magazines: "Teatr" [Theatre], "Teatr Lalek" [Puppet Theatre]. Head of the research project "Dorman. Open Archive" in The Zbigniew Raszewski Theatre Institute ([www.jandorman.pl](http://www.jandorman.pl)). Member of the expert committee of theatre programmes: "Teatr Polska" [Theatre Poland] (2016,2017), "Lato w teatrze" [Summer in Theatre] (2018, 2019). Member of the editorial board of the magazine "Teatr Lalek" [Puppet Theatre], issued by The Polish Centre of UNIMA. Member of The Polish Association for Theatre Research