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Representing the identity of a theatre laboratory. From the archive to the digital storytelling

In 2008, a team led by the Italian professor Mirella Schino started to build up the OTA (Odin Teatret Archives). Almost immediately, they faced an anomaly: the Odin Teatret is not a traditional theatre, but it is a theatre laboratory, an artistic entity that combines performance production with pedagogical and research activities such as seminars, masterclass and organization of meetings and conferences. Wanting to highlight “[...] the importance of so many other activities created by the Odin Teatret and of the documents left as their trace [...]” (Schino 2018, 6), the OTA team has created a division in series able to represent the history of a theatre laboratory and all its complex dynamics and activities.

The division in series of the Fonds Odin Teatret outlines what Foucault intends as an archive, “it is what, at the very root of the enunciated event, and in what embodies it, defines at the outset the system of its enunciability”. (Foucault 1972, 129). The binders kept in the series are organized as they have their narrative strand, representing the history and the identity of Odin Teatret.

How can it represent an identity made up of a range of several activities on a digital platform?

In *Performing Remains*, Rebecca Schneider points out that the Deleuzian notion of assemblage might be used to “unsettle the rootedness of identity, to gesture not only to mobility but also to the always already crossingness, or betweenness, or relationality of the sets of associations that make up something resembling identity”. (Schneider 2011, 36).

The paper aims to propose a modality for building up digital storytelling using archive material, departing from the notions of enunciability and assemblage. It will be presented with a prototype made up with WordPress as a CMS (Content Management System) that wants to represent the history, the activities and the identity of Odin Teatret.

References

- Foucault, Michel. 1972. *The Archaeology of Knowledge and the Discourse on Language*. Translated by Alan Sheridan. London: Tavistock.
- Schino, Mirella. 2018. *The Odin Teatret Archives*. Translated by Gabriella Sacco. London and New York: Routledge.
- Schneider, Rebecca. 2011. *Performing Remains. Art and Work in Times of Theatrical Reenactment*. London and New York: Routledge.



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