

The UCI Center for Ethnography

cordially invites you to a

TALK

BY

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The Deep Play of Theatre-Making: Rehearsal Poetics and Pragmatics

Abstract

This anthropology of theatre-making extends to aesthetic production my previous concerns with professionals' collaboration across disciplines in industrial and scientific work systems. While participants in all work systems may understand the stakes as being high, theatre-making occurs under conditions that heighten them: again and again old-timers and newcomers become temporary collaborators in risky projects (actors; artistic and production directors; choreographer; costume, lighting, scenic, and sound designers; musicians, stage manager and crew, and sometimes, playwright). With such unknowns, theatre-making parallels the deep play of very high stakes financial operations in which only irrational people would participate, according to Jeremy Bentham's utilitarianism. Far from irrational, those whose calling is theatre stake all, knowingly and repeatedly. A systematic analysis of their deep play in bringing a text to life may help to explain why theatre, against many institutional odds, keeps on happening and why pre-performance activities, of which rehearsal is but one, remain a puzzle for theatre theory and history.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009
SSPB 4250 (Anthropology Library)
12:00-2:30pm

Light Lunch Provided

Please RSVP by January 27, 2009 to

Sandy Cushman – 949-824-3344 or scushman@uci.edu

For more information about the Center and its events, go to:

www.socsci.uci.edu/~ethnog