

Sjöström Kent

The Ethics of Representation

workshop

One pervasive ethical issue in current theatre practice, motivated by a debate on subjectivity, is the *ethics of representation*, the way and extent to which an actor is expected to represent somebody else. The workshop will practically investigate the possibilities of representation in the tension between two different stances, obvious in performance art. The first de-stabilizing the idea that there is a stable present "I" of the actor, where representation takes it starting point. The other based on the condition that the performer is considering herself as a unique subject, using her body and mind, appearance and experiences for representing the other. By using fictional casting, the participants will investigate the function of distance and ethical consequences of representation. The workshop will pinpoint the process of observation, knowledge and judgement, in contrast to identification or exposing a personal essence, all in order to scrutinise the recyclability of identity.

Bio:

Kent Sjöström is the head of artistic research at the Malmö Theatre Academy, Sweden, and since 2010 he has been running *The Theory and Practice of Theatre*. In 2007 he completed the first Swedish PhD in Theatre in the field of artistic research. He is author of the monograph *The Actor in Action – Strategies for Body and Mind*. In 2015-16 he has been giving workshops and lecture performances in Czech Republic, Brazil, Germany and Shanghai. Kent Sjöström has worked as an instructor at the Malmö Theatre Academy since 1984. His current research concerns the field of how the working actor conveys ideology and theory, mainly with tools taken from Brecht's theories.

