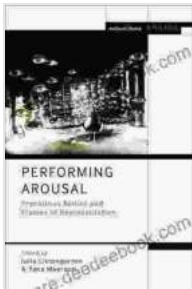


# Precarious Bodies and Frames of Representation: Methuen Drama Engage

The human body is a site of both power and vulnerability. It is the locus of our identity, our agency, and our experience of the world. But it is also a body that is constantly under threat, from both within and without. The concept of precarious bodies has been used by theorists such as Judith Butler and Michel Foucault to describe the ways in which the body is always at risk of being injured, violated, or destroyed.



## Performing Arousal: Precarious Bodies and Frames of Representation (Methuen Drama Engage) by Georges Riat

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2029 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 386 pages



In theatre and performance, the body is a central focus of attention. Actors use their bodies to create characters, tell stories, and explore the human condition. But the body is not simply a neutral instrument. It is a body that is always mediated by culture, politics, and ideology. The ways in which bodies are represented on stage can tell us a lot about the society in which we live.

Methuen Drama's Engage series is a collection of plays that explore the complexities of precarious bodies. The plays in the series deal with a wide range of issues, including violence, illness, disability, and death. They offer a valuable platform for exploring the ways in which bodies are represented and experienced in different contexts.

### **Judith Butler and the Precarious Body**

Judith Butler is a philosopher and gender theorist who has written extensively about the concept of precarious bodies. In her book *Bodies That Matter*, Butler argues that the body is not a fixed and immutable entity. Rather, it is a body that is constantly being shaped and reshaped by the forces of culture and power.

Butler's work has been influential in the field of theatre and performance. Theatre makers have used Butler's ideas to explore the ways in which bodies are constructed and regulated on stage. They have also used Butler's work to challenge the traditional binary oppositions between male and female, mind and body, and subject and object.

### **Michel Foucault and the Discipline of the Body**

Michel Foucault is a French philosopher and historian who has written extensively about the concept of discipline. In his book *Discipline and Punish*, Foucault argues that the body is not simply a passive object of power. Rather, it is a body that is actively disciplined and controlled through a variety of mechanisms, including surveillance, punishment, and normalization.

Foucault's work has been influential in the field of theatre and performance. Theatre makers have used Foucault's ideas to explore the ways in which

bodies are disciplined and controlled on stage. They have also used Foucault's work to challenge the traditional notions of freedom and autonomy.

## **Methuen Drama's Engage Series**

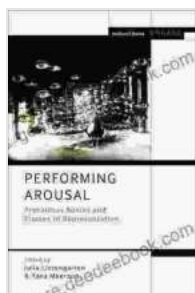
Methuen Drama's Engage series is a collection of plays that explore the complexities of precarious bodies. The plays in the series deal with a wide range of issues, including violence, illness, disability, and death. They offer a valuable platform for exploring the ways in which bodies are represented and experienced in different contexts.

Some of the most notable plays in the Engage series include:

- *Blasted* by Sarah Kane
- *Cleansed* by Sarah Kane
- *4.48 Psychosis* by Sarah Kane
- *The Shape of the Table* by Anne Washburn
- *Scenes from a Marriage* by Ingmar Bergman
- *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams
- *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen
- *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen
- *The Seagull* by Anton Chekhov
- *Uncle Vanya* by Anton Chekhov
- *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov

These plays explore a wide range of issues related to precarious bodies, including violence, illness, disability, and death. They offer a valuable platform for exploring the ways in which bodies are represented and experienced in different contexts.

The concept of precarious bodies is a complex and challenging one. It is a concept that has been explored by theorists such as Judith Butler and Michel Foucault, and it is a concept that is increasingly being explored in theatre and performance. Methuen Drama's Engage series is a valuable platform for exploring the complexities of precarious bodies and their representation. The plays in the series offer a unique opportunity to explore the ways in which bodies are constructed, regulated, and experienced in different contexts.



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