

Foreword

This volume is based on the results of a 2023 conference organised by the Bern Academy of the Arts HKB, namely by its research Institute Interpretation and the group members of the project “Italian Provincial Theatre and the Risorgimento”, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The project (2020–2024) focused on provincial theatres in what is today Northern Italy during the nineteenth century and had three research focuses: the administration of these theatres, their scenic design, and their repertoire.

This book is the third in a series of project-related publications, the first centring on the activity of provincial theatres on the Italian peninsula and in the Habsburg Empire during the nineteenth century and the second focusing on the architecture and scenic design of European provincial theatres. The third publication unites contributions of international scholars on the provincial theatres as places of social cohesion and socio-political debate, mainly in Europe but also in India.

We are aware that the following contributions on theatre performances in European regions and in India cannot give a comprehensive image of provincial theatres’ personnel and programming. Still, we believe that it is essential to study a variety of theatre cultures outside of metropolises in order to explore the relationship between their global connectedness and their local rootedness. The following contributions are therefore a few starting points in this direction.

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Giulia Brunello, Annette Kappeler

Places of Cohesion and Debate
Socio-Political Roles of Provincial Theatres
during the Nineteenth Century

edited by

Giulia Brunello and Annette Kappeler

With editorial assistance from
Daniel Allenbach,
Hochschule der Künste Bern,
Institut Interpretation

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Beate Hochholdinger-Reiterer, Annette Kappeler,
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