

Caroline Heim (Queensland University of Technology): *Audiences as Performers and Re-performers in Temporal Communities*

Caroline Heim's paper explores audience as performer and re-performer. At the theatrical event there are two troupes of performers: actors and audience.

Audience performance includes the gestural, verbal and paralingual responses to the actors in the reciprocity of co-creation. After the event, in various temporal communities, audience members often, 're-perform' their memories of the performance they have seen. Their re-performance can be embodied, written, spoken, sung and painted, often creating an entirely new artefact to be shared on social media or re-performed amongst friends, family members or fellow-fans.

This will be illustrated through a discussion of a case study of a temporal community of audience performers who perform and re-perform before, during and after each new production staged by the Broadway theatre company Manhattan Theatre Club (MTC). MTC conduct pre- and post-performance audience workshops that not only extend their plays' conversations, but contain performative elements that work to create temporal audience communities. The discussion draws from in-depth interviews undertaken with twelve highly articulate audience performers that regularly attend these New York workshops. Caroline Heim also cites her own participant-observations of workshop performances centred around the MTC staging of Simon Stephen's *Heisenberg*.

This paper argues that while re-performance is not always contiguous with the theatrical event and often occurs in a different spatiotemporal dimension, part of the performance remains through the audience's re-performance. While the re-produced performance does not contain Benjamin's aura or Böhme's ekstases, it emerges as a unique and enduring palimpsest of the original artefact: an audience text.