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Scrapbooks, Snapshots and Memorabilia: Hidden Archives of Performance

Glen McGillivray

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Glen McGillivray : Scrapbooks, Snapshots and Memorabilia: Hidden Archives of Performance before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scrapbooks, Snapshots and Memorabilia: Hidden Archives of Performance:

Scrapbooks, Snapshots and Memorabilia: Hidden Archives of Performance asks the questions: What constitutes an archive? What is worthy of being archived? And who decides? Performances are ephemeral, so archival questions of selection and appraisal determine which performances will be remembered by history and which will not. The essays in this collection each explore a different facet of the ephemerality of performance, and the traces it leaves behind: from photographic stills of actors or sets; draft scripts and production notes, theatre programs and reviews; the language used to evoke the experience of watching a dance; to the memories contained within a site which has been used for a site-specific performance. Each of the contributors to Scrapbooks, Snapshots and Memorabilia employs pertinent case studies to reveal performances that are so often hidden from the authoritative archival view; for example, those by women, indigenous people, amateurs and working people, and those outside metropolitan centres. In this way, they build a powerful argument for reconsidering or at the very least, broadening notions of what the performance archive can be.

[...] McGillivray has produced an outstanding collection, which is marked by rigorous scholarship, and political topicality. (Glenn DCruz, *Australasian Drama Studies* 63, 2013) About the Author Glen McGillivray lectures in Performance Studies at Sydney University and at the University of Western Sydney. He has had extensive experience as a theatre director and dramaturg and is currently working on a major research project that explores networks of collaboration between artists. In addition to this work, he is researching a book that explores the genealogy of the theatrical metaphor.