

Abstract

The doctoral dissertation *An Archive from Scattered Pages. Polish Theatre Columns after 1989* concerns the theatre columns published in professional theatre-related media in Poland after the political transformation. With 2019 as the end date, it was possible to include three decades in the research, to look into column writing in the first decennary of the Polish democratic reality, to reach for the texts from the beginning of the new century and its second decade, and to capture changing conditions related to the development of the digital media. For the sake of this dissertation, two theatre magazines were examined: "Teatr" [Theatre] and "Dialog" [Dialogue] from 1989 to 2019, and a web portal Teatralny.pl from 2013 to 2019.

The notion crucial to the analysis is an archive. The introduction of this category made it possible for theatre columns to be considered as an archive of theatre life. This, in turn, allows theatre columns to be treated not only as a press genre or literary text worth of analysis but also as a record of phenomena and events, and as specific documentation of the times and circumstances in which they originated. This doctoral dissertation aims to demonstrate the evolution of theatre columns in Poland after 1989, exemplified by selected theatre magazines and a dedicated website, in order to delineate a map of Polish theatre columns writing for the media after the political transformation, and to prove the thesis that theatre columns have become an archive of theatre life.

In the first theoretical chapter, the genesis and characteristics of a column as a press genre are presented. An attempt is made to characterise the subgenre of a theatre column and demonstrate its specific characteristics. A brief history of Polish theatre columns is also outlined. Moreover, the chapter contains an explanation of the concept of an archive, provides an overview of selected research on this topic, and a discussion of the validity of applying this term in relation to theatre columns.

In the next chapters, selected theatre magazines and a website with published column series are analysed. The second chapter concerns the monthly magazine "Teatr" [Theatre]. In the first part of this section, the editorials of executive editors were analysed: Andrzej Wanat (*Trzecia strona*), Janusz Majcherek (*Foyer*) and Jacek Kopciński (*Widok z Koziej*). The second part of this chapter focuses on another column series from this magazine by: Janusz Majcherek (*Widok z mostu* and *Próba czytana*), Jan Polewka (*Kurier z Krakowa* and *Cudowny świat*), Maciej Wojtyszko (*Krótki zarys męki twórczej*), Andrzej Źarnecki, Paweł Głowacki (*Chata z kraja*), Andrzej Łapicki (*Zapiski starucha II* and *Zapiski starucha III*),

Wojciech Tomczyk (*Maszeruj albo giń!*), Rafał Węgrzyniak (*Uwagi na stronie*), Paweł Wodziński (*Teatr publiczny*) and series of columns *Listy polecone*.

The third chapter concerns the theatre columns in the monthly magazine “Dialog” [Dialogue]. It analyses selected columns series by: Małgorzata Świerkowska-Niecikowska, a collective series by Piotr Gruszczyński, Joanna Godlewska, Jarosław Krawczyk and Marek Beylin (*Próby korekcyjne*), Tadeusz Bradecki (*Skrzynka na emalie* and *Po przyjęciu*), Tadeusz Nyczek (*Nawozy sztuczne*), Marek Beylin (*Po bandzie*) and Pedro Pereira (*Wynurzenia*).

The fourth chapter makes it possible to move from columns published in traditional magazines to texts created for the Internet. In this case, the analysed research subject are the columns published on the website Teatralny.pl by: Maciej Wojtyszko, Mariusz Bieliński, Janusz Majcherek (*Zrządność i przekora* and *Szczęśliwe dni*), Krzysztof Mroziewicz, Krzysztof Kopka and Tomasz Rodowicz. This section also includes an appendix which concerns the texts from the series *Kolonotatnik* by Łukasz Drewniak, explaining the genre related issues.

The columns series, published repeatedly for several, or even over a dozen years, have the potential to depict the changes in the surrounding reality. They have enabled to capture the evolution of the column as a genre, in connection with incoming trends in culture and media. Moreover, the columns series enabled me to study the columnists themselves, to reconstruct their worldviews, and to retrace the development of their writing style. The analysis of particular columns series made it possible to examine how relevant authors perceived theatre life during the period in which they published their columns, which events were described by them and how. The theatre columns emerged as a specific source of information on particular episodes in the post-transformational history of Polish theatre, as well as a kind of affective archive, conveying the mood of the authors and the whole theatre profession, and the atmosphere of the times. The columns series permitted to check not only what theatre columnists were describing, but also how they were doing it, and what language and stylistic devices they were using. The doctoral dissertation, shows the complicated relation between the theatre columns and the theatre life portrayed, as well as the theatre columns' significance as an important part of modern theatre criticism.