

***A BALKAN MILLENARIAN HOBBY-HORSE OF TALES: MILORAD
PAVIĆ'S STAR CAPE. AN ASTROLOGIC GUIDE FOR AMATEURS – A
STAGING (ABS)TRACT***

Keywords: Kosovo war staging; postmodern tales; magic realism; hypertext fiction

Abstract: *The paper compares the staging with the écriture of a postmodern book about war. Milorad Pavić's Star Cape. An Astrologic Guide for Amateurs (2000) is a sheaf of tales recollecting the bombing of Belgrade by NATO troupes in the Kosovo war, in 1999. It was staged in 2010 at the Mic Theatre in Bucharest. Analysing the effects of staging the postmodern text, we have observed better the underpinnings of our hobby-horse of tales, comparing the tales told by people in olden and newer times. The disruption of the present, discernible in the written account of Pavić's book, was compensated on the stage. The show foregrounded the symbols of the magical realistic text in order to build an intuitive frame needed during the performance and cancelled the essential tensions in the postmodern text. But the staging "illuminated" the tenuous statements of the text, made its species clearer and revealed the compositional strategies behind the experimental forms. The performance lost some of the free play of meanings in the written text but not all ...trace of the structurality of the structure. The staging forced the postmodern telling back to its solid narrative core and clarified its millenarian function. Whereas the text insists upon war blocking people's sense for the future and the writing of linear or projective present accounts, the staging makes available the horizons/tales of the past, which can return and reconcile people to the deeper layers of identity.*

* University of Bucharest, Romania; ioanazirra@yahoo.com