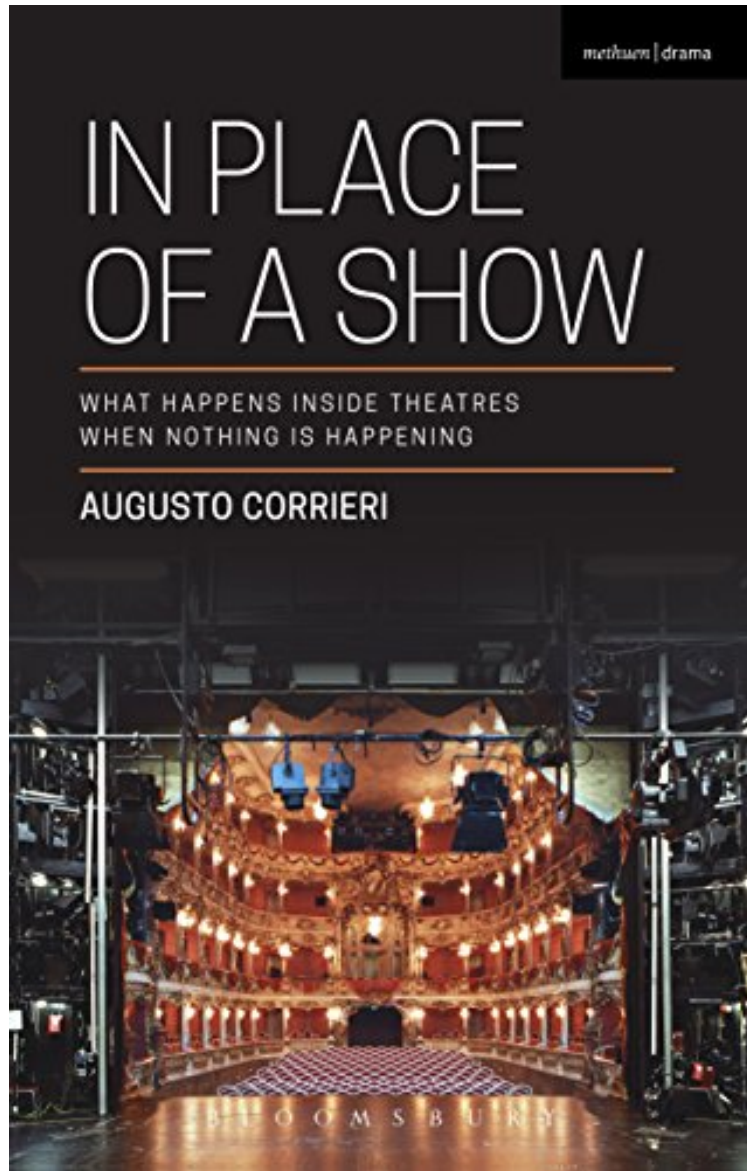


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In Place of a Show: What Happens Inside Theatres When Nothing Is Happening

Augusto Corrieri

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Augusto Corrieri : In Place of a Show: What Happens Inside Theatres When Nothing Is Happening before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Place of a Show: What Happens Inside Theatres When Nothing Is Happening:

In Place of a Show is a compelling account of Western theatre buildings in the 21st century: theatres stripped of their primary purpose, lying empty, preserved as museums, or demolished. Playfully combining first-person narratives, scholarly research and visual documents, Augusto Corrieri explores the material and imaginative potentials of these places, charting interconnections between humans, birds, vegetation, and the beguiling animations of inanimate things, such as walls, curtains and seats. Across four chapters we learn of the uncanny dismantling and reconstitution of a German Baroque auditorium during the Second World War; the phantasmal remains of a demolished music hall in London's East End; a Renaissance Italian theatre, fleetingly transformed into an aviary by the appearance of a swallow; and a lavish opera house emerging from the Amazon rainforest. In these pages we are invited to discover theatres as sites of anomalous encounters and surprising coincidences: places that might reveal the performative entanglement of human and nonhuman worlds.

The student of theatre can certainly find a good deal of objective and often surprising information about the subjects of the study here, but the real delight of the book is in how the author uses the story of the theatres ... to create a series of illuminating ... associations ... Each section engagingly presents its information, as one expects from a thoughtful and well-crafted essay, but it adds to this the pleasure of unexpected associations and an almost musical flow of discourse.

Studies in Theatre and Performance
About the Author Augusto Corrieri is a London-based artist and writer. First trained as a sleight of hand magician, in 2002 he graduated in Theatre at Dartington College of Arts, and since then has presented numerous live works for theatres and galleries in the UK and across Europe. In his writing he has explored the poetics of performance and the entanglement of human and non-human worlds.