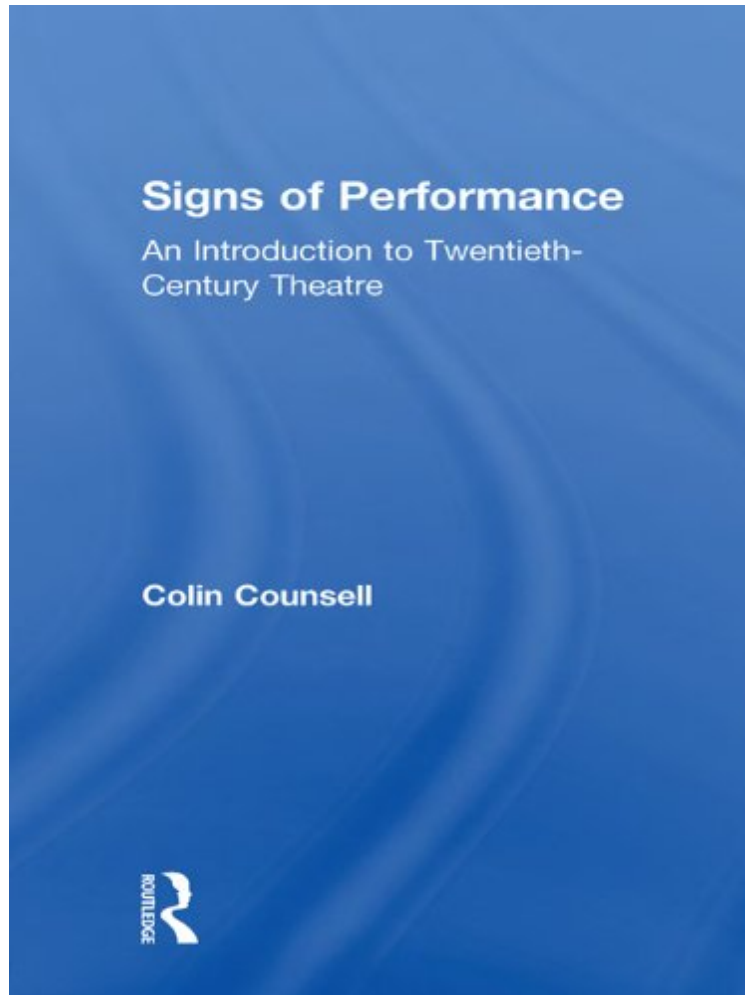


# Signs of Performance: An Introduction to Twentieth-Century Theatre

*Colin Counsell*

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**Colin Counsell : Signs of Performance: An Introduction to Twentieth-Century Theatre** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Signs of Performance: An Introduction to Twentieth-Century Theatre:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Semiotics at its best  
By Paul Monaghan  
Colin Counsell's reading of the performance practice of key practitioners in the twentieth century is not only fascinating in general, but also shows how a reader-friendly application of semiotics can elucidate performance. While some semioticians divide and subdivide categories and concepts to the point where they become too abstract to be really useful, Counsell manages to remain clear, accessible and focused on performance as something an audience experiences and 'reads'.  
0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pretty obvious stuff...but always good for a bibliography  
By A Customer  
Good and

well researched, but semiotics at this level can never really be THAT interesting...more irritating than Martin Esslin's books on the same subject...however, is worth a read if you are unsure of the subject...as I said before - fleshes out your bibliography!

Signs of Performance provides the beginning student with working examples of theatrical analysis. Its range covers the whole of twentieth century theatre, from Stanislavski to Brecht and Samuel Beckett to Robert Wilson. Colin Counsell takes an historical look at theatre as a cultural practice, clearly tracing connections between: \* Key practitioners' ideas about performance \* The theatrical practices prompted by those ideas \* The resulting signs which emerge in performance \* The meanings and political consequences of those signs It provides an understandable theoretical framework for the study of theatre as an signifying practice, and offers vivid explanations in clear, direct language. It opens up this fascinating field to a broad audience.

From the Back Cover Signs of Performance provides the student with working examples of theatrical analysis. It ranges across the spectrum of twentieth-century theatre, covering practitioners as diverse as Stanislavski and Brecht, Samuel Beckett and Robert Wilson. Colin Counsell takes a historical look at theatre as a cultural practice, clearly tracing connections between key practitioners' own ideas about performance; the theatrical practices prompted by those ideas; the resulting signs which emerge in performance; the meanings and political consequences of those signs. Signs of Performance is the first book to answer the question 'How does theatre work?'. It provides an understandable, theoretical framework for the study of theatre as a signifying practice and offers vivid explanations in clear, direct language. This book tells you everything you want to know about how performance works, and opens up this fascinating field to a broad audience. About the Author Colin Counsell is a lecturer in English Literature and Theatre Studies at the University of North London. He has worked in the theatre both as a performer and as a director.