

Department of Languages & Cultures
2018 Research Seminar Series

A Talk by Professor Stuart Young
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Encountering the Foreign(er) in Theatre of the Real



This paper discusses how we encounter the foreign(er) and how the foreigner encounters us, with particular reference to two plays: *Be / Longing* – a verbatim play about migrants’ stories of settling – or not – in Aotearoa (2012, 2015), and Milo Rau’s *Mitleid: Die Geschichte des Maschinengewehrs* (*Compassion: The History of the Machine Gun*), a semi-documentary play that was inspired by the inundation of refugees into Europe during the summer of 2015 and that was produced at the Schaubühne, Berlin, in 2016.

Be / Longing’s mise-en-scene involves a double signification between actor and character that parallels the experience of the immigrant, who resides between original and adopted homelands, and it seeks to bridge the gap between stage and auditorium, between “them” and “us”. *Mitleid*, on the other hand, confronts audiences with that gap: its two separate narratives of witnessing and prominent use of live feed onto a large screen draw attention to the spectatorial gaze and to the spectator’s position as a performing witness.

May 22, 2018 Tuesday 2:00pm A3N7 3rd Floor Arts Bldg.