

Acknowledgements

Materialist philosophy in the neo-Spinozist tradition is about unexpected encounters and about networks of relations. ‘It is through relation that we derive greater potential, intensify our powers of existence’, Brian Massumi writes. It is thus time for me to thank the people that have helped make this book become a reality. Ken Calhoon, Wolfgang Sohlich, Linda Kintz and Forest (Tres) Pyle first inspired my love of philosophy and drama many years ago. I owe Eric Santner and the participants of his 2013 DAAD seminar, ‘Economies of Desire: Political Economy and Libidinal Economy in German Culture and Thought’, one of the main ideas of this book: the argument that an often one-sided analysis focused on meaning *or* materiality has failed to capture the complexities of European modernity and modern theatre. The 2014 SLSA in Turin, Italy organised by Cristina Iuli introduced me to Roberto Esposito’s work, and I thank the crowded public transportation system in Turin for giving me the opportunity to stand next to and chat with Tim Campbell, Esposito’s English translator and among other things the co-editor, with Adam Sitze, of *Biopolitics: A Reader*. David Levin’s 2017 DAAD faculty seminar at the University of Chicago taught me much about Performance Theory and Performance Practice and helped me bridge the disciplinary gap between drama studies and theatre or performance studies. Branka Arsić taught me to think of the flesh as a material concept that travels between the realms of nature and culture – or better, throughout the natureculture continuum. Over the years, Dagmar Herzog, Julie Johnson, Mariatte Denman, Gray Kochhar-Lindgren, Mark Freed (especially), Susan Cumings, Dwight Call, Myron Avila, Ana Baginski, Katja Herges, Mark Causey and others read and provided valuable feedback on my work. Muriel Cormican and Monika Fischer wrote letters of support. I thank Oliver Aas for his thoughts on old and new materialism and Sarah Bezan for her book tips and modelling how to ‘slay the dragon’ in her own, inspiring work. During a time when my writing confidence was at a low point, Miriam Piilonen invited me for coffee and simply said: ‘I like it.’ The prize for Best Review of Recent Publications at an Academic Book Exhibit goes to Daniel

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