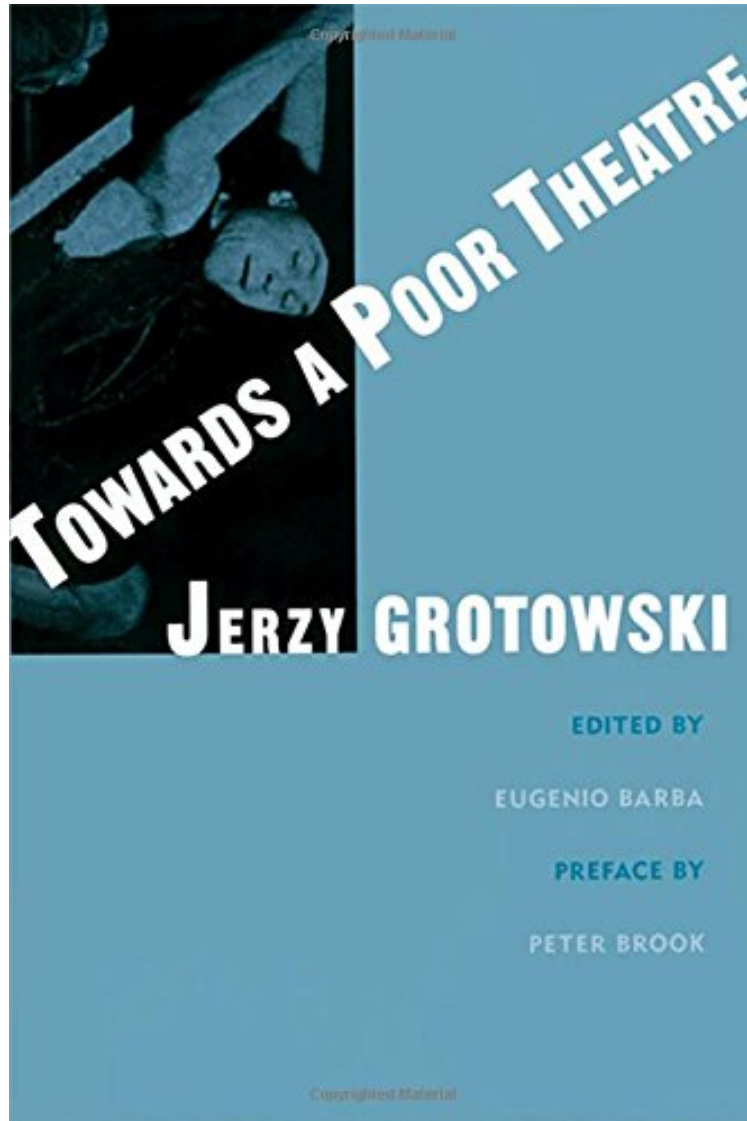


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## Towards a Poor Theatre (Theatre Arts (Routledge Paperback))

*Jerzy Grotowski*

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**Jerzy Grotowski : Towards a Poor Theatre (Theatre Arts (Routledge Paperback))** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Towards a Poor Theatre (Theatre Arts (Routledge Paperback)):

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Why can't I give 2 ratings? By Jacob M. I want to give this book two separate ratings. The content of the writing by Grotowski deserves five stars. His theatrical work in the twentieth century was vastly important, and this is the best book to discuss it. I also want to give the Kindle edition a single star only, because the manuscript contains many plainly stupid typographical errors. The preface is so riddle with them it

was difficult to read. There are more stupid errors throughout the body of the book. What's more, it's not an inexpensive book. The Kindle edition cost more than \$23. By charging that much, one would think they could pay a proofreader. 24 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Beauty in Poverty and Performance By Kevin L. Nenstiel

Comprehending this book is no small feat. Sure, you start with the premise that competing with the technical spectacle of movies and TV is a fruitless pursuit. That's not difficult. Neither is the idea of embracing poverty in theatre and making the human being the only center of performance. That's dead easy. Spare costumes, little or no makeup, no sound effects, as few light effects as possible. Who can argue with that? But this doesn't mean everybody can embrace Grotowski's vision of Poor Theatre. His is one that involves stripping away all preconceived notions of theatre from the early Modern period on. This will never fly in commercial theatre, dependent as it is on technology, nor will it satisfy many recent playwrights, who depend on technical do-funnies to make their shows work. Grotowski also takes a funny view of plays, playwrights, and theoreticians who don't agree with him. Among other things, he considers playwrights as hired talent and plays as essentially malleable. He also suggests that the only way the writings of Artaud are useful in theatre is if they are taken elementally rather than globally - a position sure not to sit well with many avant-garde directors. Because this book isn't a straight-ahead statement of principles, ideas, and practices, it yields its secrets only with difficulty. Parts of it aren't even written by Grotowski, but are interviews by other authors, or even observations that don't include quotes from the man himself. It was basically compiled to provide an overview of the ideas and products of the Polish Laboratory Theatre up to that time, and it encourages experiment and development by the reader. This isn't to say that it isn't actually useful. There are exercises for actors; there are statements of theory for directors; there are even sketches, diagrams, and photos for designers. However, expect to wrestle with this book if you're going to unlock its secrets. Once you elect to start down this path, you have a long row to hoe.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the most enlightening pedagogies of theatre By Christopher Aronson

Jerzy Grotowski was a saint, and to truly learn about him is to engage in an entirely different worldview and lifestyle from the world's. This book is the best stepping stone one can find to begin that journey.

Originally published in 1968, Jerzy Grotowski's groundbreaking book is available once again. As a record of Grotowski's theatrical experiments, this book is an invaluable resource to students and theater practitioners alike.