

M4C DTP Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) Marketing Template

Project Title				
Radical Shakespeare – the life and work of Michael Bogdanov				
LEAD INSTITUTION				
Name of HEI institution		University of Warwick		
Lead regional city		Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Coventry X	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/> Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
PARTNER ORGANISATION				
Name of organisation		Shakespeare Birthplace Trust		
Website URL		https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/		
THE RESEARCH PROJECT				
<p>The Michael Bogdanov Collection of personal papers documents the career of Michael Bogdanov (1938-2017), one of the UK's leading theatre, television and film directors, between 1965 and 2010. The papers consist of 118 boxes. These include annotated scripts, rehearsal notes and talks, book drafts, production records, programmes and reviews covering his work with a range of internationally important theatre and TV companies, including the English Shakespeare Company (which he co-founded), the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and the Royal Opera House. Bogdanov's work was highly distinctive: he combined a deep knowledge and appreciation of classical texts with a commitment to popular and political theatre. His productions of Shakespeare were designed as a riposte to the establishment (including the RSC); in the late 1980s, his bold, irreverent, and tough-edged productions of <i>The Wars of the Roses</i> took Shakespeare's history plays to an international audience with their urgent and politically-engaged vision. His championing of new work often led to controversy (e.g. the obscenity trial that followed his production of <i>The Romans in Britain</i> at the National Theatre in 1980). Bogdanov personally gave his extensive collection of papers to the SBT (with whom he frequently collaborated). The archives are, as yet, unexplored and this project will therefore mark a timely and invaluable appraisal of one of the most important directors of post-war British theatre.</p> <p>The project will seek to address a range of research questions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - what was the cultural and theatrical significance of Bogdanov's work over four decades? - how does the Bogdanov archive redefine our understanding of his artistic career? - what were his artistic, political and personal motivations and influences in producing the kind of theatre with which he became synonymous? - what were his working methods as an adaptor, director and original script writer? - how did his collaborations with academics inform his theatrical productions? - what analytical comparisons can be drawn between his work in different media (TV, theatre, opera) and in different contexts (theatres in Germany, Wales and across the UK; international touring)? <p>These research questions will be explored via the following methods: archival research conducted in the 118 boxes deposited by Bogdanov in the SBT archive; contextual research in post-war British and European theatre history in Warwick and SBT libraries; interviews with practitioners and close acquaintances of the subject. Fieldwork and research visits will also be conducted in other archives including the V&A and The National Theatre and trips will conceivably be made across the UK in order to interview theatre practitioners and academics who worked with Bogdanov (e.g. Niamh Cusack, Paola Dionisotti, John Drakakis, Graham Holderness, Andrew Jarvis, Michael Pennington, Jonathan Pryce, and others.)</p>				

The award will bring a range of opportunities and privileges. You will play an active part in the research culture of the SBT, and the departments of English and Theatre Studies at Warwick. The project research will lead to the presentation of papers at conferences and hosting research symposia and seminars at the Shakespeare Centre, Warwick and elsewhere, including leading an international one-day conference on Bogdanov at the Shakespeare Centre. You will also be involved in organising an interdisciplinary event in 2020 to mark the fortieth anniversary of Bogdanov's production of *The Romans in Britain*.

You will also gain full and privileged access to the SBT's stacks of papers and books, have use of an office-based desk in the Shakespeare Centre, and enjoy the full and valuable benefits of being an SBT Volunteer (e.g. free-passes to the Shakespeare Houses, discounts in outlets across the town, etc.). Professional archive training will be provided by the SBT for the handling of artefacts and catalogue consultation/referencing.

The ideal candidate will have a long-held interest in a range of types of theatre (e.g. new writing, Shakespeare, classics, opera), some experience of researching theatre history, and a desire to think seriously about the ways in which theatre relates to wider cultural and political contexts.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

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