

ctr

canadian
theatre
review

Celebrity Culture

CTR 141, Winter 2010

Edited by Marlis Schweitzer with Laura Levin

This issue of *Canadian Theatre Review* joins a growing body of scholarship on the phenomenon now widely referred to as "celebrity culture." Since the mid-1990s, the ubiquitous and surprisingly long-standing appeal of reality television, the proliferation of online gossip sites and photo agencies, the popularity of blogs and social networking sites from Facebook to Twitter, and the incredible success of YouTube have dramatically increased the number of venues through which average citizens can view and vie for fame and fortune. Celebrities living their "everyday lives" are subject to constant surveillance by the paparazzi and by extension the fans who view "candid" celebrity photos and videos online. Indeed, now more than ever, celebrity appears to be tantalizingly within reach of anyone with a camera, an amusing, cute, or shocking idea, and the guts to make a spectacle of themselves.

Celebrity culture is therefore an ideal subject for theatre artists and scholars to investigate, particularly those interested in the processes whereby the bodies, ideas, and images produced within a theatrical context are transmitted from stage to auditorium, and across borders of culture, ethnicity, race, class, gender, and nation. The authors gathered here explore a range of issues related to the acquisition, performance, and promotion of celebrity in both traditional (i.e. the Stratford Festival, Fringe festival) and non-traditional (i.e. Fan Expo 2008, Facebook) theatrical contexts. As this issue shows, there is a great deal to say about celebrity culture in Canada, especially as it continues to influence everything from theatre casting practices and season planning to marketing and funding decisions.

\$15.00

plus taxes and
shipping

Order your copy today!

To order your copy, contact CTR:
Tel (416)667-7810

email: journals@utpress.utoronto.ca