

## MASTER'S THESIS

### Eliminating clichés: the evolution of Jerzy Grotowski's self-revealing encounters (1957-1970)

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**Eliminating Clichés:  
The Evolution of Jerzy Grotowski's Self-revealing Encounters  
(1957-1970)**

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**A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements  
for the degree of  
Master of Philosophy**

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## Abstract

Being narrowed down as a theatre innovation, the value and significance of Jerzy Grotowski's self-revealing investigation is often overlooked and underestimated. To explore the value of his works, an elementary investigation which responds to the unique features of his pursuit and loopholes of the existing studies is necessary. This dissertation suggests using the notions of *encounter* and *cliché* as the keys to understand his works. By analyzing the evolution of the form of encounter induced by different theatrical forms employed by him, and the changing notion of *cliché* implied in the corresponding forms in 1957-70, this dissertation seeks to explore the essence of Grotowski's work-based and methodology-oriented investigation.

In chapter one, I have explained my methodology in relation to the unique features of Grotowski's pursuit and the current methodologies approaching his works. Subsequently, chapter two focused on the analysis of the assumption of and rationale behind his self-revealing investigation in relation to different sources of influence, especially Hindu philosophy and Stanislavski's Method of Physical Actions. In chapter three, by analyzing the three forms of *encounter* (i.e. *text-oriented*, *scenography-oriented* and *actor-oriented encounter*) which were identified in his theatrical productions in 1957-70, the *clichés* implied and *wholeness* revealed are examined. In Chapter four, by examining the metamorphosis of the Grotowski's notion of *encounter*, *clichés* and *wholeness*, the value and significances of Grotowski's self-revealing investigation and this dissertation were evaluated.

By analyzing the shortcomings of existing research and exhibiting my own methodology, this dissertation could possibly enrich the current studies on Grotowski.

Besides, the discovery of the self-revealing possibilities in the analysis of Grotowski's pursuit was believed to be inspiring to the development of education, theatre and self-exploration of individual in Hong Kong.

## Table of Contents

Declaration.....	ii
Abstract.....	iii
Acknowledgement.....	v
Table of Content.....	vii
Chapter I Introduction: Approaching the Enigma of Jerzy Grotowski as a Kinsman .....	1
Chapter II Grotowski’s Self-revealing Investigation.....	44
Chapter III Clichés Removed Through Spectacle-making.....	100
Phase I: Text-oriented Encounter.....	103
Phase II: Scenography-oriented Encounter.....	146
Phase III: Actor-oriented Encounter.....	178
Chapter IV Conclusion.....	222
References.....	255
Curriculum Vitae .....	265