

Satire on stage: *Venice Preserved* Reconsidered

Can satire be on stage—is it possible as mode? As a genre? How would it fit? This issue arose in my recent course on Restoration and 18th century drama....Otway's V.P. was categorized as menippean satire in the Broadview Anthology. Canfield's approach has value but it seems like an overstep. Munn's intro about political satire etc....

But what is the effect of the mode?

Need to look at Weinbrot's book on 18th century satire.

Something to work with—intellect versus passion. Tragedy presumes emotional engagement. Can tragedy have been decentered?

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When Satire Traipses Across the Boards: Reconsidering Otway's *Venice Preserved*

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Munns' *Restoration Politics and Drama: The Plays of Thomas Otway* approaches such a consideration by arguing that Otway's dramas "subvert the languages and symbolic enactments of traditional, monarchical, and non-consent power." But Munns is most concerned with the playwright's transitional position as one critical of vapid paternalism yet suspicious of the emerging progressive ideology. As such, her important work avoids to a great extent the generic ramifications of Otway's play. More recently, Derek Hughes...

Bla blab la

Add note about new historicism and human sacrifice?
Include gender notes? Go through 3 writers....?

NEED to check previous categorizations....
Canfield's earlier essays? Books?

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That Otway eyes the satiric bluntness of comedy is hardly disputable given the (in) famous "nicky-nacky" scenes. But the play's overwhelming reliance on emotional impact reaffirms its categorization as tragedy. And, moreover, the play sublimates the necessary intellectual recognition of irony so critical in the satiric mode; the audience, at play's end, is concerned more with the sensational deaths of Jaffeire, Pierre, and Belvidera than the discordance between idealized language and the sado-masochism of Antonio. In Otway's tragedy, therefore, satire, while not the center of the play, nonetheless contributes to the destabilization of any ideological underpinning.

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