Comedia Performance

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

Our mission is to highlight performance as the central aspect of theater. Although text is an essential component of the *comedia,* plays are written to be performed, not read and *Comedia Performance* strives to direct scholarly attention to performance.

Comedia Performance publishes articles on diverse aspects of performance of the Spanish *comedia* and other early modern theatrical forms. Appropriate subjects for articles include, but are not limited to, historical or modern staging of the *comedia,* translating the *comedia* for the stage, performance theory, textual issues pertaining to performance, historical issues such as audience composition, *corral* design, costuming, blocking, set design, and spectator response. *Comedia Performance* does not publish text-based literary studies. The journal also publishes interviews, theater reviews, and book reviews.

General Submission Criteria

- All submissions must be original and unpublished.

- Manuscripts may be in either English or Spanish.

- *Comedia Performance* is a refereed journal. A committee of experts will read all submissions. Please remove all references to or clues about your identity as author(s) from the main text and footnotes.

- Figures and images must be submitted as separate files, **not embedded into the main MS Word document**.

- Digital images should be submitted in either .tiff or .jpeg format at **300 dpi** with at least 2.25 inches in width.

- Submissions should be accompanied by an abstract of 150–200 words on the first page of your manuscript and on the abstract page of the submission site.

- Submit 3–5 keywords selected carefully to allow for maximum discoverability.

- Article manuscripts should not exceed 25 double-spaced, typed pages, including notes and works cited.

- Book and Performance Review manuscripts should be between 3–5 pages double-spaced, typed pages long, including images.

- Authors are responsible for securing permissions and paying the required fees for the use of any material previously published elsewhere. Copies of permission letters should be sent to the Pennsylvania State University Press with the author's publication contract.

- Authors guarantee that the contribution does not infringe any copyright, violate any other property rights, or contain any scandalous, libelous, or unlawful matter.

- Authors guarantee that the contribution has not been published elsewhere and is not currently under consideration elsewhere.

- Authors need to provide **alt text** to describe image content (for figures, charts, and tables) to ensure accessibility for individuals using screen readers. Please see the **PSU Press Alt Text Guide on page 9** for further information on writing alt text.

- Authors have reviewed the submission checklist on **page 10** of this guide to ensure all submission directions have been followed.

Manuscript Format

- Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word files.

- All text, including notes and works cited, should be formatted in Times New Roman font, 12-point font, with double line spacing throughout.

- Number pages at the bottom right.

- No "Track Changes" function should be in use. Please check your document for any remaining tracked changes, hidden text, or comments, and delete them.

- The "Style" field should read "Normal" throughout text.

- Use "main headings" and "subheadings."

- Subheads within the text must be bolded to distinguish them from full headings and should not have any punctuation at the end.

- Indent paragraphs using the tab key only, not the space bar or the paragraph indent function.

- When omitting part of a sentence with an ellipsis, use three periods with a space before, between, and after them (e.g., " . . . and . . . "). For a four-period ellipsis at the end of a sentence, the first period is the sentence's standard ending punctuation, followed by three spaced periods as described above.

- Epigraphs and extracts from other texts should be set off by line spacing—do not format an indent. On the line after an epigraph, include the author's name and the source; do not use an endnote.

- Use single spaces following periods between sentences throughout the manuscript.

- All footnotes should be converted to endnotes, double spaced, and rendered in 12-point Times Roman.

- Figures / photographs:
    - Must be submitted as separate files, **not embedded into the main Microsoft Word document**.
    - Indicate placement in the text, for example:
        - \<Figure 1 here\>, \<Image 1 here\>
    - In the text, do not use the word "see" before directing the reader to figures or images.
    - Digital images should be submitted in either .tiff or .jpeg format at 300 dpi at the size the images are to appear with at least 2.25 inches in width.
    - If possible, all digital files (photos) should be grayscale.
    - Provide **alt text** to describe image, table, and chart content for screen readers to ensure accessibility for those using screen readers. Please see the **PSU Press Alt Text Guide on page 9** for further information on writing alt text.

Style

- MLA style must be used for citations and notes. Please refer to the latest edition of the *MLA Handbook* (9th Edition). Note: MLA format is double-spaced with a hanging indent.
    - **Endnotes**
        - Endnotes are used to elaborate on information presented in the article text, e.g. bibliographic information.

- Endnotes must be numbered consecutively throughout the article and be indicated by superscript numerals following the punctuation.

- The endnote numbers at the end of the article should not be superscript; they should be a number followed by a period.

- All endnote entries must be double-spaced at the end of the article and must appear before references.

- Automatic formatting is acceptable in endnotes.

o **Works Cited:**

- Use parenthetical citations that reference a Works Cited list; notes and Works Cited should appear at the end of the text.

- Submissions to the reviews section do not need a Works Cited list.

- **Titles:** Italicize the titles of books, plays, and periodicals; place short stories and poems in quotation marks.

- For a multi-volume work, always state the complete number of volumes.

- To indicate page and volume number, insert a brief reference within parentheses in the text itself. Use Arabic numbers, not Roman numerals, followed by a colon and page numbers.

- Do not use "Ibid." and "op. cit."

o **Capitalization, Abbreviation, and Punctuation**

- The MLA guidelines specify using title case capitalization—capitalize the first words, the last word, and all principal words, including those that follow hyphens in compound terms.

- Use lowercase abbreviations to identify parts of a work (e.g., *vol.* for *volume*, *ed.* for *editor*) except when these designations follow a period.

- Whenever possible, use the appropriate abbreviated forms for the publisher's name (e.g., *Random* instead of *Random House*).

- Separate author, title, and publication information with a period followed by one

space.

- Use a colon and a space to separate a title from a subtitle. Include other punctuation only if it is part of the title.

- Use quotation marks to indicate the titles of short works appearing within larger works (e.g., "Memories of Childhood." *American Short Stories*). Also use quotation marks for titles of unpublished works and songs.

Examples

Journal article - Print:

Stock, Carol D., and Philip A. Fisher. "Language Delays Among Foster Children: Implications for Policy and Practice." *Child Welfare*, vol. 85, no. 3, 2006, pp. 445–462. Print.

Journal article - Online:

Quinn, Roseanne Giannini. "Mothers, Molls, and Misogynists: Resisting Italian Womanhood in the *Sopranos*." *Journal of American Culture*, June 2004, pp. 166–68. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 5 July 2005.

Book by multiple authors:

Rollin, Bernard E., Laura L. Nash, and Henri-Claude de Bettingnies. *Science and Ethics*. Cambridge University Press, 2006. Print.

Please refer to the *MLA Handbook* for more examples and further guidance.

Book Reviews

- Book reviews should be submitted in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced and without endnotes.

- Figures / photographs:
  - Must be submitted as separate files, **not embedded into the main Microsoft Word document**.
  - Indicate placement in the text, for example:

- <Figure 1 here>, <Image 1 here>
  - In the text, do not use the word "see" before directing the reader to any figures or images.
  - Digital images should be submitted in either .tiff or .jpeg format at 300 dpi at the size the images are to appear with at least 2.25 inches in width.
  - Provide **alt text** to describe image, table, and chart content to ensure accessibility for individuals using screen readers. Please see the **PSU Press Alt Text Guide on page 9** for further information on writing alt text.

- If possible, all digital files (photos) should be grayscale.

- Please italicize book titles.

- All reviews should present the full publication material according to MLA guidelines.

  Example

  Bastianes, María, Esther Fernández, and Purificació Mascarell, eds. *Diálogos en las tablas: últimas tendencias de la puesta en escena del teatro clásico español.* Reichenberger, 2014. Pp. xiv, 384pp

  Sharon James, University of South Dakota

Performance Reviews

- Theatre reviews should be between 3–5 pages long, including pictures, submitted in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and without endnotes and works cited.

- Figures / photographs:
  - Must be submitted as separate files, **not embedded into the main MS Word document**.
  - Indicate placement in the text, for example:
    - <Figure 1 here>, <Image 1 here>
  - In the text, do not use the word "see" before directing the reader to any figures or images.
  - Digital images should be submitted in either .tiff or .jpeg files at 300 dpi at the size the images are to appear with at least 2.25 inches in width.

- o Authors must provide **alt text** to describe image content to ensure accessibility for individuals using screen readers. Please see the **PSU Press Alt Text Guide on page 9** for further information on writing alt text.

- If possible, all digital files (photos) should be grayscale.

- Please italicize performance titles.

- Reviews should not include a detailed plot description. For canonical plays, no plot summary is necessary. For lesser-known plays, a two- to three-line synopsis should suffice.

- Avoid minute descriptions of action, costume, lighting, or sets. Avoid constructions such as "And then don Lope comes out and says . . ." Instead, comment on the efficacy of the blocking of particular scenes or the effect caused by costume and décor. Only describe performance details if you intend to comment on them.

- Avoid structures such as "This reviewer thinks . . ." Reviews are by definition subjective.

- One reviewer may not publish more than two reviews in a single issue.

Example

El Laurel de Apolo. By Pedro Calderón de la Barca. Dir. Jesús Maestro. Repertorio Español, New York, NY. August 19, 2017. (Play's Run: August 19–29, 2017)

Edward Hall, State University of New York

Translations
- Include translations for all quotations in languages other than English and Spanish. Translations for individual foreign words, run-in quotes, and block quotes should appear in parenthesis.
- In general, translations should be accompanied by the original quotation in the endnotes.

Writing Tips for Abstracts

An abstract is a self-contained piece of writing that can be understood independently from the article. It must be kept brief (approximately 150–200 words) and may include these elements:
- Statement of the problem and objectives (gap in literature on this topic)
- Thesis statement or question
- Summary of employed methods, viewpoint, or research approach
- Conclusion(s) and/or implications of research

Keep in Mind: Depending on your rhetorical strategy, an abstract need not include your entire conclusion, as you may want to reserve this for readers of your article. However, it should clearly and concisely indicate what questions will be answered in the article. Your goal is to cultivate anticipation so the reader knows what to expect, even if you do not reveal the precise details of your conclusion(s).

Do

- Include your thesis, usually in the first 1–2 sentences
- Provide background information placing your work in the larger body of literature
- Use the same chronological structure as the original work
- Follow lucid and concise prose
- Explain the purpose of the work and methods used
- Use keywords and phrases that quickly identify the content and focus of the work
- Mimic the type and style of language found in the original article, including technical language

Do not

- Refer extensively to other works
- Add information not contained in the original work
- Define terms
- Repeat or rephrase your title
- Use first-person pronouns in abstract text (e.g., instead of "In this article, I outline," use "This article outlines")

Examples

The abstract should begin with a clear sense of the research question and thesis.

"This article probes a radical co-production of *El burlador de Sevilla*—with interpolations from *Tan largo me lo fiáis* and a passage from Tirso's *La dama del Olivar*—by the Compañía Nacional de Teatro Clásico (CNTC) and Grec 2022 Festival de Barcelona, as adapted and directed by Xavier Albertí. It examines how, in the context of the 2017 resurgence of the #MeToo movement, this re-creation of *El burlador* allowed the amorous agendas, social ambitions, or sexual desires of the play's visible women to be foregrounded rather than pushed to the background."

It is often useful to identify the theoretical or methodological school informing your approach to the thesis question and/or to position the article within an ongoing debate. This helps readers situate the article in the larger conversations of your discipline.

"This article explores the relationship between power, performance, and identity through the figure of the queen in Lope de Vega's *Los pleitos de Ingalaterra*. Built upon a theoretical understanding of identity as both intersectional and performative, this study argues that compositional elements such as staging, costume, and spatial politics are essential to understanding the queen's multi-faceted character and her relationship to power. By exploring the constant interplay between the queen's identity markers—most notably gender, class, and sexuality—and how their variable expression or repression impacts on her ability to exercise authority."

Finally, briefly state the conclusion.

"Therefore, centering on extant music whose song-texts are linked to some of Lope de Vega's plays, this article will contextualize the relevant transcriptions as well as highlight potential performative aspects to demonstrate not only the overall significance of music on the early modern stage but also the songs' possible contribution to how the musical component can enhance modern productions and maximize the genre's structural and ideological significance for today's audiences."

Interview Submission Guidelines

Comedia Performance welcomes interviews with directors, actors, and other theater professionals involved in the staging and performance of Spanish classical theater, other early modern theatrical forms, and related projects. These conversations provide valuable insights into the practical aspects of bringing these works to life on stage. We seek original, unpublished interviews that are not currently under consideration elsewhere. The following guidelines outline the submission process for interviews to be considered for publication in our journal:

Format and Structure

- As a general rule, interviews are transcribed by the interview conductor and published in a Q&A format. For the first question and answer, spell out and bold the interviewer and interviewee names. For subsequent questions and answers, use bolded initials. Italicize all performance titles.

- Interviews may be conducted and transcribed in English or Spanish. If the interview was conducted in another language, please arrange for a translation.

- The length should be between 3,000 and 6,000 words, including 8–12 questions. The text should be in 12 pt. Times New Roman font and double-spaced.

- Please edit your transcription for clarity, concision, and length.

- Suggest a title for your interview. If you do not suggest a title, the editorial team will choose one. Some examples of titles from past interviews include:

Sound and Music in the Bath Performances of Comedias*: Jon Nicholls and Grover Wilkins Weigh In.*

Un Renaissance Man del Siglo XXI: Entrevista Con Álvaro Tato.

"The Constant Resonance of Now": Harley Erdman and Gina Kauffman on Wild Thing*.*

"Cómo estudiar todo lo que no nos enseñaron": Una conversación sobre la serie Juana Inés *con Monika Revilla.*

- You may write a brief introduction to provide context, the interviewee's bio, or state any relationship with the interviewee.

PSU PRESS ALT TEXT GUIDE

Penn State University Press is committed to making its publications accessible to the widest audience possible. The inclusion of alternative text (or "alt text") will allow those using assistive technology to access the images and other graphic elements (such as tables, charts, graphs, and maps) in the digital formats of articles. Alt text is now required for journals with an online platform to comply with the

2025 European Accessibility Act. Authors are encouraged to submit alt text (and, where necessary, extended descriptions) for all images and other graphic elements in their manuscripts.
Note: If sufficient information about the image is included in the caption or the text, alt text may be unnecessary.

General Guidelines for Composing Alt Text
Alt text should clearly and concisely describe the content and function of an image. Please limit the description to the most important elements of the image. In most cases a one- or two-sentence description, consisting of no more than 250 characters (not including spaces), should suffice. If more than 250 characters are needed to convey the content and function of an image, please provide an extended description in addition to the alt text.

Extended Description
For more complex images and graphic elements (such as graphs, charts, and maps), please provide an extended description with the necessary information. Any visible English text in an image must be transcribed in the extended description. Please note that images requiring an extended description must also have the shorter alt text.

Formatting and Submitting Alt Text
Alt text should be submitted along with captions. The alt text for a figure should be set on a new line after the caption and should be preceded by <alt text>. An extended description, when necessary, should be treated in a similar manner, preceded by <extended description>. When drafting and formatting alt text, you should:

- capitalize acronyms so assistive technology reads them as separate letters and not words (e.g., US versus us);

- avoid complex symbols, such as brackets, quotation marks, dashes, ellipses, and mathematical symbols, as assistive technology does not treat all of these symbols consistently;

- write in complete sentences but avoid overly complex sentence structures.

For examples as well as additional information and resources, see here.

Comedia Performance

Final Submission Checklist (MLA)

- o   All authors and coauthors are listed in the submissions interface.
- o   At least one author has been designated as the corresponding author, with the following details provided:
    - ▪ E-mail address
    - ▪ Affiliation
    - ▪ ORCID number (if available)
- o   All necessary funding statements have been included, specifying the funding organization's name, the organization's DOI, and any grant numbers (if applicable).
- o   All required files have been uploaded, including:
    - ▪ Abstracts (150–200 words)
    - ▪ Keywords (3–5)
    - ▪ Separate image files (tiff or jpg) with relevant captions (**not embedded into the main Microsoft Word file**)
    - ▪ All tables (including titles, description, and footnotes)
    - ▪ Ensure that all figure and table references in the text match the provided files.
- o   Journal policies detailed in **submission guidelines have been reviewed** and the **journal's style guide has been followed**.
- o   The manuscript has been checked for spelling and grammar.
- o   The manuscript, as well as the Notes and/or Works Cited sections, follow the most recent *MLA Style* guide (9th edition) for formatting and language.
- o   Endnotes have been used instead of footnotes.
- o   All references mentioned in Works Cited are cited in the text.
- o   If there is only one note or one work cited, the section is titled "Note" or "Work Cited" rather than using the plural forms.
- o   Permission has been obtained for any use of copyrighted material from external sources (including the Internet and for image use). Please provide permission documentation to the journal editor for images or long text excerpts under copyright.
- o   All figures are supplied as individual image files (**not embedded in the main Microsoft Word document**) and are at least 300 dpi with a width of at least 2.25 inches.
- o   **Alt text has been provided** for all images, tables, and charts. See the **PSU Press Alt Text Guide** in the submission guidelines for more information [here](#).
- o   You have saved your article in a .docx file format (not as a PDF or any other format).