

Death's non-places: Narratives of War in the Theatre of Matéi Visniec

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Abstract. This article examines how Matéi Visniec's dramaturgy reshapes representations of war through the poetics of the grotesque, traumatic memory, and the de-ritualization of death. We argue that liminal devices – disposable bodies, anonymized corpses, and phantom figures – function as critical tools to confront erasure and structural violence, while revealing the non-places of death and the rupture inflicted upon the known inventory of reality. Through textual analysis, the study demonstrates how Visniec constructs a space of resistance, raising the central question: how can war be (re)spoken when even the bodies themselves become unreadable?

Keywords: Matéi Visniec, contemporary theatre, war, memory, trauma, liminality, Post-communist Eastern Europe.