

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the depiction of the feminine and stereotypes associated with it in plays that could be qualified as midcult. For the purpose of this analysis, only comedies will be examined as both simplification and schematic characters are one of the key tools of this genre. Midcult in itself enhances this simplification, however with the difference that this simplification is in its case lacking justification. In contemporary Czech mainstream theatre, which inclines towards midcult in the long term, a tradition of staging comedies where the interpretation of female characters is not only based on stereotypes but is reinforcing them is clearly visible. The thesis will analyse two plot schemes which occur frequently in this type of productions: 1. plays in which two seemingly different ageing women befriend each other and decide to go on adventures and 2. plays in which women are perceived as objects – it is most often the case in plots where a male character has several mistresses. In the analysis of different texts and their interpretations of female characters the emphasis will be put chiefly on the way they reinforce the dominant misogynistic perception of women. I will do so by using genre analysis (to determine whether these plays are indeed comedies) and through the lenses of feminist theories, namely by defining the specific tools of misogyny and sexism and the difference between these terms.