

The metaphor *Theatrum mundi* – we all are actors on the scene of the world – is known from Shakespeare's plays but it is an old topos, which is already shown in ancient Greek culture.

*Theatrum mundi* could signify either a turning away from the material world in favour of heaven or the scrupulous study of the visible world; it could emphasize the essential hypocrisy of society as well as the centrality of human action in the world.

History of the metaphor is an interesting excursion to the history of European thinking.

Theater metaphor suggests that knowledge is neither a mere reflection of what is known nor a fabrication, but a kind of performance or enactment.

In my thesis I tried to focus on the history of this metaphor in the context of theory of theatricality. *Theatrum mundi* has many conjunctive subjects with others: e.g. „play within a play“ and „life as a dream“; theme of spectatality implies some basics in sense of political manipulation. In chapter about social roles I tried to give a connection between old metaphoric theme and language of modern science.