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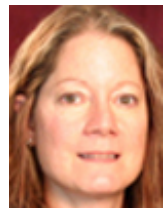
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Lesley Ferris  
Arts and Humanities Distinguished Professor  
of Theatre  
The Ohio State University



Mary Tarantino  
Professor Department of  
Theatre  
The Ohio State University

## The Camouflage Project

Thursday-Saturday, May 19-21, 2011  
The Ohio State University

To see streaming videos of this event, visit our [Event Recording Page](#) for the various conference segments.

### Organizers

Lesley Ferris, Arts and Humanities Distinguished Professor of Theatre  
Mary Tarantino, Professor, Department of Theatre

### Overview

The goal of **The Camouflage Project** is to create, organize and execute a three-part interdisciplinary endeavor linked to the theme of secret agents, camouflage, deception and disguise in World War II, specifically the F section (France) of the Special Operations Executive (SOE). The three parts are as follows:

**Performance:** To devise a new performance work as collaboration between [Ohio State University Theatre](#) and the [Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design \(ACCAD\)](#). This will be a multimedia work combining digital animations and video projections with experimental use of 3D printing, 3D scanning and projection mapping.

**Exhibition:** To create a visual environment parallel to the performance space, that will have a second life as an exhibition. The exhibit features historical background (interviews and soldier training films) on the science and art of camouflage in both World Wars organized around a visual study of selected SOE (principally female) agents and espionage circuits in France, examples of military equipment, devices, disguises, gadgets and weapons of deception.

**Symposium:** To organize and host an international symposium on the multiple artistic and instrumental meanings of camouflage, to be held in May 2011. The symposium features panels of Ohio State and international experts from military history, political science, and the Imperial War Museum addressing the subject of camouflage and the SOE.

The camouflage project offers a fresh meaning to the expression "theatre of war." On one level it theatricalizes the history of military camouflage, particularly the Special Operations Executive (SOE) and the role played by women agents in its espionage activity. On another it reveals the artistic dimensions of these activities: a variety of theatre artists – scenic, costume, make-up designers, and vaudeville magicians – were employed to use their theatrical skills to deceive and fool the enemy.

In 1942 a group of New York scene designers created The Camouflage Society of Professional Stage Designers, hiring two specialists to teach them the art and science of camouflage. Rather than tales of derring-do and spying, this project seeks to look at different and often hidden aspects of the war: the use and creation of camouflage, both literally and metaphorically, by people who had to work secretly behind enemy lines.

The performance storyline will highlight the work of women agents, many of whose accomplishments have been concealed, erased or obscured for a variety of reasons. A narrative strategy will be to include elements of the training process involved in preparing agents for the field and the often-disastrous consequences of strategic decisions made by the SOE leadership.

Keynote Address: [Juliette Pattinson](#), University of Strathclyde

## Program

**Thursday, May 19, 2011**  
Drake Events Center

1849 Cannon Dr, Columbus, OH 43210

**3:30 p.m. -- Welcoming Remarks**

Mark Shanda

Thurber Theatre

**3:45 p.m. -- Walk-through and tour of *The Camouflage Project* Exhibition**

Lesley Ferris and Mary Tarantino

Thurber Auditorium

**4:30 p.m. -- Keynote Address**

Moderator: John Mueller

Juliette Pattinson, "Passing as a French Native: Camouflaging the British Body in Occupied France"

Drake, Room 2038

**6 p.m. -- Catered dinner**

Viewpoints Lounge

**7:30 p.m. -- Performance of *The Camouflage Project* (Tickets Required)**

Thurber Theatre

**Friday, May 20, 2011**

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

**8:00 a.m. -- Coffee**

**9:15 a.m. -- Members of the creative team discuss devised work and verbatim**

Lesley Ferris, Mary Tarantino, Vita Berenzina-Blackburn  
and Jeanine Thompson

**10:30 a.m. -- Coffee**

**10:45 a.m. -- Selections from 2010 research video interviews**

Introduction by Janet Parrott

Interviews with MRD Foot (former SOE Historian), Noreen Riols (F-Section agent), and Tania Szabo (daughter of F-Section agent Violette Szabo)

**Noon -- Lunch**

**1 p.m. -- "Performing History: Testimony, Memoir, Documentary, and Evidence"**

Student Panel of Actors/ACCAD animators; Dramaturg, Assistant Director

Moderator: Peter Cutts

3 p.m. -- Break

3:15 p.m. -- "Post War Representations: Memorializing the Women of SOE F-Section"

Kate Vigurs

Moderator: Anna Birch

4 p.m. -- Break

4:15 p.m. -- "Stumbling Into History: Reflections on the Search for Historical Identity"

Rita Kramer

Moderator: Thomas Davis

**Saturday, May 21, 2011**

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

9 a.m. -- Coffee

9:15 a.m. -- Perspectives on Camouflage

Moderator: William Childs

Roy Behrens, "Camouflage as Art and Illusion"

10:15 a.m. -- Break

10:30 a.m. -- Perspectives on Camouflage

Moderator: TBD

Dan Gray, "Theatrical Scenographers and the War Effort"

Matt Lewis, "3D Modeling, Mapping and Altering Spaces"

Beth Kattelman, "Creating Illusion in the War Effort"

Noon -- Closing Thoughts

Moderators: Lesley Ferris and Mary Tarantino

Juliette Pattinson, Jenny Morgan, William Childs, Kate Vigurs, and Rita Kramer

## Participants

[Roy Behrens](#), University of Northern Iowa

[Vita Berenzina-Blackburn](#), The Ohio State University

[Anna Birch](#), Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama

[William Childs](#), The Ohio State University

[Peter Cutts](#), Actor, Writer, Director and Producer

[Thomas Davis](#), The Ohio State University

[Lesley Ferris](#), The Ohio State University

[Dan Gray](#), Scenic Designer

[Elizabeth Harelik](#), MA Candidate, The Ohio State University

[Beth Kattelman](#), Associate Curator of Lawrence and Lee Theatre  
Research Institute Theatre

[Kristine Kearney](#), Costume Designer, The Ohio State University

[Rita Kramer](#), Author  
[Matt Lewis](#), The Ohio State University  
[Eric Mayer](#), MFA Candidate, The Ohio State University  
[Jenny Morgan](#), Filmmaker, Editor and Journalist  
[John Mueller](#), The Ohio State University  
[Janet Parrott](#), The Ohio State University  
[Juliette Pattinson](#), University of Strathclyde  
[Performance Team](#), The Camouflage Project, The Ohio State University  
[Chelsea Phillips](#), PhD Candidate, The Ohio State University  
[Brian Rotman](#), The Ohio State University  
[Mark Shanda](#), The Ohio State University  
[Francesca Spedalieri](#), MA Candidate, The Ohio State University  
[Mary Tarantino](#), The Ohio State University  
[Jeanine Thompson](#), The Ohio State University  
[Kate Vigurs](#), Museums consultant and historical interpreter

## Sponsors

*The Camouflage Project* is produced by the [Ohio State Theatre Department](#) and [Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design](#). Major sponsors are the [Mershon Center for International Security Studies](#) and [The College of Arts and Humanities](#) with additional support from The Arts Initiative, [Department of History](#), and the [Coca-Cola Critical Difference for Women Grant](#).

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