

**Freddie Rokem:
Possessed by Theatre.
The Dybbuk at the Habima Theatre,
Moscow 1922**



Veranstaltungsort

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Abbildung: Das Habima-Mitglied Hanna Rovina als Lea in einer Berliner Aufführung des Dabbuk (um 1926)

Ansky's play *The Dybbuk: Between Two Worlds* depicts how the spirit of a restless dead (a 'Dybbuk') enters the body of a young bride during the wedding ceremony. The 1922 production of Ansky's play at the Habima Theatre in Moscow, directed by Yevgeny Vakhtangov, has become legendary and can be seen as the 'origin' of Israeli theatre. The lecture will explore the ritual and scriptural sources of the play and the performance, drawing attention to their complex meta-theatrical dimensions while at the same time showing how they have contributed to the construction of a secular Jewish aesthetically negotiated self-understanding.

Freddie Rokem holds the Emanuel Herzikowitz Chair for 19th and 20th Century Art and is Professor Emeritus from the Department of Theatre at Tel Aviv University. His more recent books are *Philosophers and Thespians: Thinking Performance* (2010); *Jews and the Making of Modern German Theatre* (co-edited with Jeanette Malkin, 2010); *Strindberg's Secret Codes* (2004) and the prize-winning book *Performing History: Theatrical Representations of the Past in Contemporary Theatre* (2000; *Geschichte aufführen*, Neofelis, Berlin, 2012). He was the editor of *Theatre Research International* from 2006-2009, and is now co-editor of the new book series *Performance Philosophy* (Palgrave Macmillan). He has been a visiting Professor at universities in the United States, Germany, Sweden and Finland, and is now Visiting Hölderlin Professor of Dramaturgy at the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main.