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Centro di Ricerca Skenè Ricerche interdisciplinari sul teatro

EX PALAZZO DI ECONOMIA AULA H VIA DELL'ARTIGLIERE, 19 VERONA

Rosy Colombo – Sapienza Università di Roma Issues of Identity in *Antony and Cleopatra*

Taking her cue from the idea of time and space as basic categories of modern identity, Rosy Colombo proposes an investigation into the play's tension between the two cities of Rome and Alexandria, both with their constitutive identity at stake: in particular with regard to Rome's collapse of republican ideals in a political and generational crisis developed by an incompatible "stalling together" of the young "boy" Caesar with a mature, middle aged Antony; and to Alexandria's loss of the queen's greatness with a consequent passage to the state of a colony. At an existential level, however, attention must be paid to an intimation of immortality in a third, transcendental city of love; without a name, yet reminiscent of the New Jerusalem in the Book of Revelation: the "new heaven, new earth" looming in Antony's prophetic vision at the beginning of the play, to be found by Cleopatra, and in fact *almost* reached by her at the end of the play, by refashioning her own self into "fire and air" in the performance of her death, stirred by "immortal longings".



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