

# Buchstäbliche Körper in Kafkas Welttheater

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*Abstract*

*Literal Bodies on Kafka's World Stage*

*Kafka's writing is rooted in the body. The particular attention he devotes to the bodies of actresses on stage – especially from the Yiddish theater of Lemberg – is closely related to his idea of literature and description. Notably, Kafka appears not to distinguish between dead and living bodies, between organism and artificial imitation of living beings. In his reflections on the performances of the Lemberg Troup, he constantly refers to his primary focus, literature, in the search for a new kind of description, which moves beyond the psychological methods of the period. Literature and stage both pursue the transformation of the "I" into something strange and unknown.*

**Keywords:** stage; literature; description; transformation; performance.