



## Female Sensibility, a Model for the Reform of Theatre in the 18th Century?

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Abstract: The essay shows how women, described as being more sensitive, are the underlying model for the first acting theories published in France in the 18th century. Their affinity with passions, which was seen negatively by the moralists, elevates them as a source of inspiration for the Enlightenment theater, which relies on the pathetic. The various attempts to universalize the female model encourage porosity between genders rather than solidifying sexual differences.

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