

The function and the potential of the Off-Off-Broadway

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The purpose of this research trip was to investigate the alternative functions and possibilities of so called the little theatre movements by the comparative studies of those movements in the US, Japan and Korea. Taehangno, a theatre town in Korea, has flourished as an incubator to young artists and has housed over one hundred small theatres in the theatre district in Seoul. In recent years, however, the Taehangno theatres have pursued popularity and commercial success. The fact that the idea of alternative theatre as being experimental and therefore non-commercial has shifted and started to lose validity was my main concern. How does the alternative theatre function in this postmodern consumer ridden world of capitalism? To find an answer to this question I conducted a research on the Off-Off-Broadway theatres of Manhattan found some interesting factors: the emergence of Asian American theatre to be appreciated by the general public, the problem of translation, and disconnection among the theatres. I also found a good model case to answer this question: New York Musical Theatre Festival, a festival of little theatres, which supports emerging artists from various countries. It offers the possibilities of a new function of little theatres today.