



BOREDOM IN THEATRE –

A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF THEATRE AUDIENCE

The article tackles the problem of audience boredom in theatre. During a very specific show called „Request concert” audience members start behaving in a most peculiar way. The specific space of the show and the fact that the audience is not allowed to sit, creates a situation in which audience becomes bored. Boredom thus has its own dynamic. It manifests in different ways such as yawning, sleeping, talking, staring blankly into space. As a qualitative sociologist and using a specific method – participant observation – one can only analyse what the subjects allow the scholar to see. This article will define boredom based on a case study of a theatre audience during the „Request Concert”. It will also describe its dynamic and look for possible reasons for the boredom to occur. Looking at the structure of the space in a way Howard Becker looked at the social space of art in Jazz, allows sociologist to describe and analyze boredom in terms of social and structural phenomenon.