

## HÉLÈNE CIXOUS

Hélène Cixous is the author of more than 40 novels, almost 20 plays and a considerable amount of volumes of theory and essays. Her work has been translated into more than 30 languages.

Hélène Cixous was born in Algeria in 1937. Her father, a doctor, was of Sephardic Spanish Algerian origin. Her mother Eve Klein an Ashkenazi from Osnabrück, Germany. She grew up in Oran and Algiers before moving to France in 1955, where she quickly gained the *Agrégation* and a Doctorate in English Literature. She was instrumental in founding the experimental *Université de Paris VIII* in 1968. She created the first French doctoral program in Women's Studies in 1974. She is now Emeritus Professor and teaches at the *Collège International de Philosophie*. From 1995 to 2003 she was Distinguished Visiting Professor at Northwestern University. She has been Honorary Professor at the University of Sussex since 2001, and, since 2007, an A.D. White Professor-at-large at Cornell University.

Cixous's publications in English translation include *The Exile of James Joyce, Inside, The Newly Born Woman, 'Coming to Writing' and Other Essays, The Book of Promethea, Three Steps on the Ladder of Writing, Manna, The Hélène Cixous Reader, Rootprints, Stigmata, First Days of the Year, The Third Body, Veils* (with Jacques Derrida), *Selected Plays of Hélène Cixous, Portrait of Jacques Derrida as a Young Jewish Saint, The Writing Notebooks of Hélène Cixous, Dream I Tell You, Reveries of the Wild Woman, The Day I Wasn't There, Manhattan Letters from Prehistory, the Portable Cixous, Love itself, Hyperdream, Insister of Jacques Derrida, Hemlock, Twists and Turns in the Heart's Antarctic.*

She has been 'house playwright' at Ariane Mnouchkine's *Théâtre du Soleil* for thirty years. Plays written for and staged by the Soleil include *The Terrible but Unfinished Story of Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia* (1985), *The Indiad or India of Their Dreams* (1987), *The Perjured City* (1994), *Drums on the Dam* (1999), *Les Naufragés du Fol Espoir* (2010).

Honorary degrees : Queen's University, Kingston (Canada), University of Alberta, Edmonton (Canada), York University (England), Georgetown University, Washington D.C. (USA); Northwestern University, Chicago, Il. (USA), University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. (USA), Saint Andrews University of Fife (Scotland), University College London, University College Dublin (Ireland).

Literary Prizes include the *Prix Médicis* (1969) and the *Prix des Critiques* for best theatrical work (1994).