

Contents

I	Visual Interpretation: Text and Context	1
II	The Language of Costume and Hand Properties	35
III	The Language of Gesture and Expression	67
IV	The Language of Theatrical Space	99
V	The Language of Ceremony	135
VI	“Maimed Rites”: Violated Ceremony in <i>Hamlet</i>	173
VII	Epilogue	188
	Notes	195
	Index	224

☞ What doe we with our hands? Doe we not sue and entreate, promise and performe, call men vnto us, & discharge them, bid them farwell, and be gone, threaten, pray, beseech, deny, refuse, demaund, admire, number, confesse, repent, feare, be ashamed, doubt, instruct, commaund, encite, encovrage, sweare, witnes, accuse, condemne, absolve, injurie, despise, defie, despight, flatter, aplaude, blesse, humble, mocke, reconcile, recommend, exalt, shew-gladnes, rejoyce, complaine, waile, sorrow, discomfort, dispaire, cry-out, forbid, declare silence and astonishment? And what not? With so great variation, and amplifying, as if they would contend with the tongue. And with our head, doe we not envite and call to-vs, discharge and send away, avowe, disavowe, be-lie, welcome, honour, worship, disdaine, demaund, direct, rejoyce, affirme, deny, complaine, cherish, blandish, chide, yeeld, submit, brag, boast, threaten, exhort, warrant, assure, and enquire? What do we with our eye-lids? And with our shoulders? To conclude, there is no motion, nor jesture, that doth not speake, and speakes in a language, very easie, and without any teaching to be vnderstoode: nay, which is more, it is a language common and publike to all: whereby it followeth (seeing the varietie, and severall vse it hath from others) that this must rather be deemed the proper and peculier speech of humane nature.

—*Montaigne, "An Apologie of Raymond Sebond" (1603)*

