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### **Abstract:**

With the fall of the Roman Empire, the institution of ancient theatre crumbled. After the rich and wasteful theatre tradition, people forgot how to act and perform. Only in the Middle Ages, when the liturgical plays grew out of their liturgical context, the dramatic tradition was reborn. This traditional look on the theatre history is strongly influenced by literary studies and not at all corresponding with a modern view on performative art. As I have shown in my Master's Thesis, the gap in theatre history is not necessarily a historical fact but the result of different unsolved problems in theatre historiography. This can be also the reason, why the so called "theatre-vacuum" was not topic of a further investigation so far, although many of the items of today's Theatre Studies can be also found in the years from 530 to 930. This long overdue investigation is my promotion project. As I will try to show, the early Middle Ages were not at all a dark and uncivilized period without any form of staging dramatic art, but in its culture of signs and symbols can be seen an exceptional wide field of performance and ritual communication.