

## SAVIANA STĂNESCU AND A POST-COLONIAL READING OF OVID'S EXILE<sup>1</sup>

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*Abstract: The paper starts from the observation that the trade-mark of Stanescu's plays is her concern with the new East European/Romanian immigration to the West, especially the US, which she knows from her own experience. From a feminist demystifying perspective Stanescu investigates the value-generating territory of "inbetweenness" inhabited by the East-European "other", the intersections of cultures, the criss-crossing of borders between races, ethnicities, gender, religions and languages and the relation between memory and history. In a number of plays such as Waxing West, Lenin's Shoe, White Embers, Suspendida, Bechnia, Aurolac Blues and For a Barbarian Woman she explores interpersonal and global power relations of various kinds—between individuals, between East and West, between superpowers and small countries—by employing what she calls a "post-postcolonial" approach to power-play dynamics. The paper focuses on Stanescu's recent play For a Barbarian Woman (2009), an encounter between the "imperial" self and the "barbarian"/postcolonial/postcommunist "other," where Ovid's exile is set within the force-field of a power discourse that involves two empires, a small country and two historical ages, but keeps a fresh eye on the contact zone between cultures and people and anticipates a new understanding of otherness.*

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<sup>1</sup> This essay has been researched as part of the project *Romanian Cultural Space in Transatlantic Perspective. From Post-Communism to Post-Accession*, founded by CNCSIS through contract no. 205/1.10.2007, project code 1000.