Abstract

Fargespill (lit. “play of colors”) is a series of musical performances in Norway that have been staged from 2004 to the present. Each performance consists of a sequence of musical and dance numbers performed by children from different minority and immigrant groups, many of whom came to Norway as refugees, together with white Norwegian children. With recent theorizations of multiculturalism and critical discussions of race and racism in Norway as a background, this article describes and analyzes the Fargespill performances, arguing that Fargespill’s use of the voices and performing bodies of refugee children to tell its story about multiculturalism in Norway instantiates existing regimes of representation that serve to manage cultural difference and maintain a hierarchy in which majority (white) Norwegian culture has a normative status.