

Early Theatre

**2021 Prize for Best Interpretative Essay, Volumes 22-23
Honourable Mention**

Liz Fox

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

‘Cosmopolitan Desire and Profitable Performance in *The Dutch Courtesan*’

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Liz Fox’s essay parallels sexual commodification, as represented in *The Dutch Courtesan*, with the increasingly cosmopolitan nature of material culture in the early modern period. Fox argues that the seduction techniques of sex worker characters in the play both evoke and satirize the new rhetoric of salesmanship, the burgeoning fetish for the foreign, and the seductive power of theatre itself.