Laboratory science: representations of reproductive biology in Carl Djerassi's *An Immaculate Misconception: Sex in an Age of Mechanical Reproduction*

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Carl Djerassi's 'An Immaculate Misconception: Sex in an Age of Mechanical Reproduction' belongs to the science-in-theatre genre. The play revolves around the incidents in a reproductive biology laboratory and investigates the ethical implications of intracytoplasmic sperm injection, a path-breaking scientific innovation in the field of assisted reproductive technology. In selecting key scientific themes as the subject matter of his literary works, Djerassi attempts to disseminate scientific ideas to a non-scientific audience. This is a significant step towards narrowing the gap of mutual incomprehension between scientists and non-scientists.

Keywords: Artificial reproduction, ethical implications, intracytoplasmic sperm injection, laboratory on stage, mutual incomprehension.

'The two cultures' debate and science-in-theatre genre

Programme note and plot

Djerassi's *An Immaculate Misconception: Sex in an Age*