

THEA304 DIRECTING

Trimester 2 2009

36 Points



Anne Bogart directs *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	13 July to 16 October 2009
Study week:	19 to 23 October 2009
Examination/Assessment period:	27 October to 15 November 2009

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator:

David O'Donnell	david.odonnell@vuw.ac.nz	463-6828	Room 303, FT77	Office Hours on door
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Technical Officer:

James Davenport	james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz	463-6842	Room 204, FT77	Office Hours on door
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CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Tues, Thurs, 3pm-6pm Studio 77, 77 Fairlie Tce

PLEASE NOTE: Ongoing production and performance work is central to this course.

Students will be committed to ONE major directing project, and ONE major assisting project (see below), and each of these will have an intensive period of at least three weeks preparation, rehearsal and performance. Work on directing/collaboration projects is no excuse for missing set classes.

COURSE DELIVERY

Class work and Performances will take place at Studio 77, 77Fairlie Terrace.

The first class will take place in Studio 77, 77 FT, Tuesday 14 July at 3p.m.

Students will be responsible for booking their own room spaces for rehearsals through the Programme Administrator, Jo Bean: jo.bean@vuw.ac.nz 463-5359 Room 307, FT77 Office Hours: 9-5, Mon-Thurs

Due to the intensive nature of the work, a very high level of attendance at classes is expected. Missed classes must be justified by a medical certificate.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information or changes will be announced in class, notified by email and/or posted on the course notice board on level 3, 77FT. Students are requested to check their email address regularly.

COURSE CONTENT

During the **class** components of the course, each student will:

- i) be offered some introductory approaches to theatre directing
- ii) gain practical experience by directing scenes from selected playtexts
- iii) present to the class research work on twentieth century directors
- iv) engage with a number of lectures and workshops run by Jim, David and invited practitioners.

Students should also wear comfortable clothing, which allows movement, to all classes. Cell phones are to be turned off during classes.

During the **production** and **performance** components of the course, each student will

- i) direct a selected playscript, in all aspects from casting to final public performance, over an intensive rehearsal period.
- ii) Complete a practical project in (a) set and costume design, or (b) technical design and realisation, or (c) stage management and publicity, as creative collaborator to a package of short plays, over an intensive rehearsal period.

- iii) Compile a workbook to document and analyse creative and production work.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course aims primarily to offer practical study of the interpretation of a theatrical text, working with actors and directing a theatre production. To this end, all students will direct a short play as part of a series of productions for a public audience, as well as completing a further practical project as creative collaborator for other productions. This will be supplemented by individual study and research of influential theatre directors. By the end of the course the students will have developed an awareness of all aspects of theatrical production and increased their knowledge of the history and practice of theatre directing.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The university normally anticipates that you should be able to devote about 27 hours per week to a 36 point course at 300-level, and that you should therefore expect to spend, on average, about 21 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, preparation, thinking, writing, rehearsal. However, the intensive practical nature of this course means that there will be periods during project and production work when this will be significantly increased. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE TAKE SPECIAL CARE WITH YOUR TIME MANAGEMENT, making sure you can balance your workload on this course with your work on other university courses.

NO THEATRE WORK OUTSIDE OF YOUR THEATRE COURSES SHOULD BE TAKEN ON WITHOUT DISCUSSION WITH THE COURSE CO-ORDINATOR BEFOREHAND.

In addition, the ethos of this course will be co-operative and collaborative – a small production company operating over three months. For much of the time, each individual will be reliant on group support, and will need to offer the same support and co-operation to others, to ensure the success of all the creative objectives.

READINGS

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

REQUIRED TEXTS

THEA 304 Course Reader (Available from Student Notes, approx. \$36.50).

Delgado, Maria and Heritage, Paul (eds.) *In Contact with the Gods: Directors Talk Theatre*.
Manchester/New York: Manchester University Press, 1996.

Recommended Texts

Braun, Edward. *The Director and the Stage: From Naturalism to Grotowski*. London: Methuen, 1982.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Each of these assessments has been designed to focus on a different aspect of the overall objectives of the course.

Assessment	% of final mark	Due date
Study presentation	20	In class (TBA)
Creative Collaboration Project	30	As per course programme
Directing Project	50	As per course programme

All assessment will be internal. There is no final examination.

1. In-class study presentation of a major director [20 minutes plus question time] = 20%
2. Creative collaboration project: total of 30% comprising two parts
 - a) practical work = 20%
 - b) written work (self-analysis) = 10%
3. Directing project: total of 50% comprising two parts
 - a) practical work (production) = 30%
 - b) written work (production workbook) = 20%

Further details on these assessment tasks, including marking criteria are available on class handouts.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

Each of the assessment tasks is designed to develop your skills in and knowledge of the theory and practice of theatre directing. The study of a major theatre director develops understanding of the history and methodologies of directing. The creative collaboration project develops skills in technical theatre production and the ability to work collaboratively. The directing project develops your skills in realising a theatre piece from play text to full production. This process includes the development of your creative

imagination, plus practical skills in script analysis, running rehearsals, working with designers and directing actors. The keeping of a production workbook enables this process to be the subject of reflection and analysis. The workbook is also designed to develop good habits in documenting your work and developing your own philosophy as a theatre artist.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

Unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g., medical reasons with certificate), or a previously agreed extension, work handed in late will normally lose half a grade (2½%) for each weekday or part-weekday late, starting from the hour the work is due. Comments on late work will be minimal. Work submitted late without an extension will not normally be accepted if it is more than two weeks after the due date. **Note:** if you fail to hand in work by this two-week deadline, you will normally be considered as having failed to meet a mandatory requirement and therefore fail the course.

Aegrotat provisions may apply if you are unable to submit your final project for unavoidable reasons. The Aegrotat procedures are listed in *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Extensions

If you wish to ask for an extension (e.g., because of pressure of work) please do so well before the due date. Extension requests on the day the assignment is due will not normally be accepted.

Requests for extensions must be made in writing, by filling out the extension form (available on your course Blackboard site) and getting your Course Co-ordinator to sign it. Only Course Co-ordinators may grant extension, not tutors. The signed Extension form must be attached to the assignment when it is submitted, plus any relevant documentation. If circumstances prevent you from accessing the extension form, you must attach an email from the Course Co-ordinator, which confirms that an extension has been granted, to your assignment. In real emergencies we can of course be flexible, but the most important thing is for you to somehow let us know as soon as possible.

Extensions will not be granted beyond **26 October** except under exceptional circumstances. The University does not permit the School to accept work after the last day of the examination period.

In such a case you should also contact the Course Co-ordinator. There is a university policy on reasonable accommodation with respect to assessment procedures for students with disabilities (see *Calendar* as above).

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass the course, completion and submission of all assignments is required as well as an overall passing grade.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Your work may be typed or handwritten, but if handwritten must be fully legible. Your self-analysis should be typed.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>

THEATRE PROGRAMME FACILITIES

There are standard requirements regarding conduct within 77 FT, 93 KP, 83FT and 225 Aro St:

Smoking

- Smoking is not permitted in any buildings. Please smoke outside and dispose cigarette ends in the ashtray provided outside the main door at 77 FT.

Food

- Food may only be consumed in the 77FT Green Room, 85FT, 93KP and Aro St kitchen areas.
- No beverages (with the exception of bottled water) are allowed in the studio theatre, dressing room, film room, library, foyer area, and 83FT, 93 KP or 225 Aro St and 85FT(except kitchen areas listed above).
- Student and staff using kitchen areas are strongly expected to clean up after themselves Strictly no food or drink in the 85FT Digital Edit Suites.
- Alcoholic drinks are not to be brought onto the premises unless authorised by Programme Director Film or Programme Director Theatre

Green Room

- The Green Room is available to students working in the Film and Theatre Programmes. **You are expected to clean up after yourselves** (this includes returning any mugs removed from the Green Room and operating the dishwasher).

Library

- Students are encouraged to make full use of the Robert Lord Library at 77 Fairlie Terrace; however, please note that books and department materials do not leave the building. Please return books to shelves before you leave the library.

End of Class

- Rooms 306 (lecture theatre), 305, 205 (film room), 209 (seminar room), studios, studio foyer, 93 KP and 225 Aro St must have the desks and chairs returned to order for any following classes or rehearsals.

Lockers

- Lockers are available to Theatre students on Level 0 77FT. There are only 52 so once they run out those with double lockers will have to consider sharing. Students provide their own lock and key. See Administrator in room 307.
- Access your lockers via back stairs through Green Room. Please make sure the door to the main stairwell remains shut Access will not be available during the trimester break so please take everything with you at the end of this trimester and inform the Administrator if you are not taking a Theatre subject next trimester.

Theatre Rules and THEA 304 specific instructions

- Safety and security within the premises occupied by Film and Theatre is the responsibility of everyone who uses these facilities. While we make every effort to ensure that our premises are safe and hazard free, we need the cooperation of all students and visitors.
- Full details of theatre safety rules are contained in the FAT book, which is available on Blackboard.
- Jim will provide you with hazard assessment forms in the first week. It is essential that these are completed way in advance of seasons opening. He will also provide further details of technical responsibilities.
- While the stage manager will co-ordinate the set changeovers between shows, it is the responsibility of directors to ensure that their casts all assist with these, and that they treat all collaborators with respect.
- Further note: It is the responsibility of the stage manager to arrange volunteers to video the performances.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 304

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	14 July	Introduction/ History and role of the director	
	16 July	Script analysis/ Conceptualisation	
Week 2	21 July	Auditions/Casting/Planning rehearsals	
	23 July	Running rehearsals/ Warm-ups/Voice	
Week 3	28 July	Set/lighting/sound design	
	30 July	Blocking/Image making/ Physicality	
Week 4	4 Aug	Rhythm and action/ Shaping performance	
	6 Aug	Research/ Production problem solving	
Week 5	11 Aug	Study presentation (10,11,12)	
	13 Aug	Study Presentation (4,5,6)	
Week 6	18 Aug	Giving actors feedback	SEASON 1 (1,2,3; 7,8,9)
	20 Aug	Production problem solving	
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 24 August– Friday 4 September 2009			
Week 7	8 Sept	Directing exercises	SEASON 2 (4,5,6; 10,11,12)
	10 Sept	Directing chorus/Production problem solving	
Week 8	15 Sept	Guest director	
	17 Sept	Devising theatre	
Week 9	22 Sept	Guest director	SEASON 3 (7,8,9; 1,2,3)
	24 Sept	Site-specific theatre	
Week 10	29 Sept	Directing Shakespeare	
	1 Oct	Deconstructing texts/ Production problem solving	
Week 11	6 Oct	Study presentation (1,2,3)	
	8 Oct	Directing exercises	
Week 12	13 Oct	Study presentation (7,8,9)	SEASON 4 (10,11,12; 4,5,6)
	15 Oct	Conclusions	

Study Period: Monday 19 to Friday 23 October 2009

Examination Period: Tuesday 27 October – Sunday 15 November 2009

- a) The numbers above refer to the elected number of each student on the course (1-12), to which course projects that student will be involved in at a given time, and the deadline which applies to that project.
- b) The performances in the production column relate to the programmes of short plays to be directed by the listed numbered student, assisted by those numbered in italics. Performances of the plays will be Wednesday to Saturday, 7 p.m., in Studio 77.
- c) Study presentation relates to the class presentation of research material created by the numbered students on a particular date.