

THEA 324 Special Topic: The Scenographic Imagination

Trimester 1 2010

1 March to 4 June 2010

30 Points



TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 1 March 2010 to 4 June 2010

Mid-trimester break: 5 April to 18 April 2010

Study week: 7 June to 11 June 2010

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

James Davenport james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz 463 6842 FT77/204 Office Hours by appointment

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Tuesday and Friday 12:00pm to 3:00pm 77 Fairlie Terrace, 102

COURSE DELIVERY

The content of this course will be delivered using lectures, practical workshops, and class discussions. The core of this course is intensive hands-on training in performance technologies together with play text and production design analysis, historical research, student presentations, and class discussions.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class, sent via email, and posted on the Theatre Programme notice boards on Level 3 of 77 Fairlie Terrace.

COURSE CONTENT

This course will explore the theoretical and practical elements of scenography and stagecraft necessary in mounting theatrical productions. Students will gain an overall understanding into the different disciplines of performance design, technical production roles, and theatre technologies past and present.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students passing the course should have ...

- Gained a full understanding of core technical principles in mounting a theatrical production.
- Learned stage terminology, stage directions, and the different kinds of theatrical spaces and their parts.
- Developed an understanding of all the responsibilities of the various designers and technicians involved in creating a theatrical production.
- Acquired a sound understanding of the basic elements of design, including scenic, lighting, and sound design.
- Developed the skills to operate safely the theatre's technical equipment, including lighting units, lighting console, power tools, sound, and AV /multi media equipment.
- Gained an historical and theoretical insight into theatrical technologies.
- Developed a deeper understanding of the different types and styles of live performance and how technologies impact on them.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

It is always difficult to precisely specify the workload of courses which have a high practical and creative content. The university anticipates that you should be able to devote 300 total hours to a 30-point course at 300-level. Therefore you should probably expect to spend on average about 19 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, image collecting, thinking, writing, design, and building work. The intensive practical nature of this course means that there will be periods during project and production work when

these hours will be significantly increased, particularly during mid-term break build sessions and major production periods in May. 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. You should also take particular care with your general health and wellbeing.

READINGS

Essential texts:

Salomé by Oscar Wilde 1892

The Master and Margarita (stage adaptation tbc)

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.

Customers 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 customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

Recommended Reading:

The Master and Margareta novel by Mikhail Bulgakov.

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Students are required to purchase a design materials package (NZ \$ 75.00) from Gordon Harris.

Students must also purchase mask-making supplies from the course coordinator (NZ \$40.00).

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment:

2500 word essay	30%	DUE: 27 of April
Design project	40%	DUE: 1 and 4 of June
Workshop participation	30%	Awarded: week of 14 June

Specific information and details on these assessments and grading criteria will be passed out in class. Each of the assessment tasks is designed to develop your skills in and knowledge of scenographic processes and theories covered in the lectures and workshops:

- The 2500 word essay is an analytical discussion of a live theatrical production. This will allow you to exercise critical thinking skills when considering and discussing the scenographic elements of a theatrical production. This essay will also enable you to examine and discuss how the specific scenographic elements influence the play text and production thematically and stylistically. How clearly and succinctly you communicate your insights and critical arguments will affect your assessment mark.
- The design project allows you to use the foundations of the performance design theories, practices and analytical skills acquired during the semester to realise your own scenographic design for the play text *The Master and Margarita*. The assessment mark will be determined on the design research, artistic merit, and overall presentation.
- Workshop participation is central to the learning in this course and the assessment mark will reflect your artistic work and personal contribution considering attendance, attentiveness, and professionalism in class and in all production work. You will be expected to work 30 hours outside of class on productions.

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

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day or part work day, starting from the hour the work is due. This means late work will drop one 'grade-step' every second day—i.e. from C+ to C, or A- to B+. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

Extensions

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- **Complete ALL assignments.**
- Achieve at least a C grade overall.
- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

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

Students 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 for students 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_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

COURSE PROGRAMME

Wk	CLASS (Tuesday 12:00pm to 2:50 pm)	CLASS (Friday 12:00pm to 2:50 pm)	NOTES
1	March 2 Ice Breaker Course outline <i>Salome</i> ' Silly Summery Thematic Discussion Scenographic requirements Intro into Design Research Collage	March 5 Salomé Research and Collage workshop Collage Presentations for Anna Kamaralli Q and A	Workshop Participation Schedule and Signup
2	March 9 Salomé Set Design Model Building Exercise	March 12 Rostra and Lighting/AV Laboratory in 77 FT	Model Building Exercise Handout
3	March 16 TBA	March 19 Drafting-Elevations/Working Drawings Intro into Hand and Vectorworks Drafting Drafting exercise	
4	March 23 Sound Design with Andrew Simpson	March 26 Sound Design with Andrew Simpson	
5	March 30(Finish Model Due) Model Lighting Laboratory/Photo model Salomé Design Problem Solving Design Project discussion	April 2 Good Friday	Make Up/Face Chart Handout Design Project Brief Handout Due: Finished Model
	April 5 to 9 Mid -Trimester Break BUILD <i>Sir Thomas Wyatt</i>	April 12 to 16 Mid -Trimester Break BUILD Salomé	Due: Make Up Designs 9 of April
6	April 20 Make up/Hair with Rebecca Middleton <i>Sir Thomas Wyatt's</i> Head project?	April 23 Make up/Hair with Rebecca Middleton <i>Salome'</i>	
7	April 27 (2500 word essay due) Festival Scenographic Critique discussion <i>Master and Margarita</i> play discussion with Megan Evans	April 30 <i>Master and Margarita</i> Space configuration excersise	DUE: 2500 word essay 27 of April) (30%)
8	May 4 TBA	May 7 TBA	
9	May 11 TECH <i>Sir Thomas Wyatt</i>	May 14 TECH <i>Sir Thomas Wyatt</i>	
10	May 18 <i>Master and Margarita</i> Solo (in class) Design Work with Jim	May 21(Field Trip) Proscenium Theatres/ ST James Theatre	<i>Sir Thomas Wyatt</i> Season May 18 to May 22
11	May 25 TECH Salomé	May 28 TECH Salomé	
12	June 1 Design Project Due (40%) Final <i>Master and Margarita</i> Design Presentations Lobby set up for <i>Salome'</i>	June 4 Design Project Due (40%) Final <i>Master and Margarita</i> Design Presentations Final wrap up and course evaluation	Salomé Season June 1 to 5 Due; Design Project 1 and 4 of June (40%)

Workshop Participation Awarded week 14 of June 2010 (30%)