

# THEA 220 Special Topic: Scenography Introduction to Theatre Technologies and Performance Design

**Trimester 2 2010**

Monday 12 July to Saturday 13 November 2010

**20 Points**



## TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	Monday 12 July 2010 to Friday 15 October 2010
Mid-trimester break:	Monday 23 August to Sunday 5 September 2010
Study week:	Monday 18 October to Friday 22 October 2010
Last piece of assessment due:	October 25 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 Room204, FT77 Office Hours by appointment

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Lectures

Wednesday and Friday                      2:10pm to 4:00pm                      77 Fairlie Terrace, 102

## COURSE DELIVERY

The content of this course will be delivered using lectures, practical workshops, 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. The core of this course is intensive hands on training in performance technologies with playtext and production design analysis, historical research, student presentations, essay writing, and class discussions. 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, sound, costume, and multi media 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 about 15 hours per week to a 20 point course at 200-level. Therefore you should probably expect to spend on average about 10 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, image collecting, thinking, writing and design 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 the major production period in August and September. 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:

Charles Mee's *Big Love* (<http://www.charlesmee.org/html/about.html>)

Charles Mee's *Notes towards a Manifesto* (<http://www.charlesmee.org/html/about.html>)

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](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. 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.

## 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:

1000 word essay	30%	<b>DUE: 3 of September</b>
Design project	40%	<b>DUE: 8 or 13 of October</b>
Workshop participation	30%	<b>Awarded: week of 11 of October</b>

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 1000 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 *Big Love* by Charles Mee. 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 20 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 instructor's name.

## EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

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. Work that is submitted late without an extension is subject to penalties:

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

## **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Complete all assignments on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend 80% of class sessions
- Complete 20 hours of workshop Participation

## **CLASS REPRESENTATIVES**

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**

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Your journal may be handwritten, but write as legibly as possible.

## **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\\_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)

## THEA 220 SPECIAL TOPIC: SCENOGRAPHY INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE TECHNOLOGIES AND PERFORMANCE DESIGN      2010 Teaching Schedule

Wk	CLASS (Wednesday 2:10pm to 4:00pm)	CLASS (Friday 2:10pm to 4:00pm)	NOTES
1	July 14 Course Intro; Theatre machines The Kernel, Scribble #2	July 16 Scale Scenic Design Floor plan lecture and exercise	Mask image collections due July 21
2	July 21 Mask Design Fundamentals	July 23 Mask Design	Read <i>Big Love</i> and Charles Mee's <i>Manifesto</i>
3	July 28 Lighting Design	July 30 Lighting Design Pack In for THEA 204	204 packin
4	August 4 Pack Out for THEA 204	August 6 Audio Visual	
5	August 11 Scenic break down of <i>Big Love</i>	August 13 Play text discussion of <i>Big Love</i> and Charles Mee's <i>Manifesto</i>	
6	August 18 <b>Mask Performance</b>	August 20 <b>Mask Performance</b>	<b>Mask Performance Aug 18, 20</b>
	August 23 – September 6 Mid -Trimester Break	August 24 – September 6 <b>Workshop Participation</b> <b>Build <i>Master and Margarita</i></b>	<b>Essay Due Sept 3</b>
7	Sept 8 Introduction to power tools	Sept 10 Building flats and platforms	
8	Sept 15 204 10am 93 kp THEA 304 Packin Rostra Lights Props	Sept 17 Model Building #1	<b>THEA 304 Tech Rehearsals</b> <b>Sept Sat 18 and Sun 19</b>
9	Sept 22 Guest Speaker Alex Funke	Sept 24 Guest Speaker Alex Funke	
10	Sept 29 TBA	Oct 1 TBA	
11	Oct 6 Costume Design Fundamentals	Oct 8 <b>Design Project Presentation</b> <b>Finished Set Designs for <i>Big Love</i></b>	<b>Design Project Due Oct 8,13</b>
12	Oct 13 <b>Design Project Presentation</b> <b>Finished Set Designs for <i>Big Love</i></b>	Oct 15 <b>Debreif Finale</b> <b>Theatre Appreciation Day</b>	<b>Theatre Appreciation Day</b>