

THEA 406 Special Topic: Advanced Directing

Trimester 1 & 2 2011

28 February to 12 November 2011

30 Points



Bobrauschenbergamerica by Charles Mee directed by Anne Bogart

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	28 February to 14 October 2011
Mid-trimester break 1/3:	18 April to 1 May 2011
Mid-year break:	6 to 10 July 2011
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	22 August to 4 September 2011

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

David O'Donnell (Course Co-ordinator), david.odonnell@vuw.ac.nz, Ph. 463 6828, Room 303 77FT, Office hours on door or by appointment

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 406

Megan Evans, megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz, Ph. 463 9793, Room 302 77FT, Office hours on door or by appointment

James Davenport, james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz, Ph. 463 6842, Room 304 77FT, Office hours on door or by appointment

Claire O'Loughlin (Course Administrator), claire.oloughlin@vuw.ac.nz, Ph. 463 5359, Room: 202 83 FT
Office hours Monday – Friday, 10am – 5pm

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Wednesday 3:10 – 6:00PM 93 Kelburn Parade, Studio 77 (alternate weeks beginning Wednesday 2 March)

COURSE DELIVERY

The course will be delivered in seminars and practical workshops. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing to all classes, and ensure that cellphones are turned off. Class work and Performances will take place at 93 Kelburn Parade and Studio 77, 77Fairlie Terrace.

Students will be responsible for booking their own room spaces for rehearsals through the Programme Administrator, Claire O'Loughlin. The first class will take place in 93KP, Wednesday 2 March at 3p.m.

Due to the intensive nature of the work, students are required to attend every class. Missed classes must be justified by a medical certificate.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information for this course will be posted under the course number on the course notice boards on level 3, 77 Fairlie Terrace. If you are uncertain about any elements relating to classes and course assignments, please email David O'Donnell for advice.

COURSE CONTENT

This course explores a variety of approaches to theatre directing through practical workshops and theoretical study of directing methodologies. The emphasis is on leading a creative process from conception to performance through collaboration with actors, designers and technicians. Each student will direct a short play for public performance.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students passing the course should be able to manage all aspects of directing a play text including choosing the play, casting, building a team of design and technical collaborators, planning and running rehearsals,

working with actors and designers, directing technical and dress rehearsals. Students will also develop an awareness of wider theatre production and management processes through undertaking a collaborative project in a production or publicity role. Students will also be able to analyse and articulate selected key methodologies and historical movements in theatre directing, based on individual study and research. By the end of the course the students will have developed an advanced understanding of all aspects of theatrical production and increased their knowledge of the history and practice of theatre directing.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The University anticipates that you should be able to devote at least 10 hours per week to a full-year (two trimester) paper in a 4-paper Honours or Graduate programme. At Honours level, it is expected that students will attend every seminar; if you expect to be absent from a class seminar, please contact the course co-ordinator in advance if possible.

READINGS

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011, 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 of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from Vicbooks on Level 3 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.

Essential texts:

Bogart, Anne. *A Director Prepares: Seven Essays on Art and Theatre*. London/New York: Routledge, 2001.
Cost \$69.95

Schneider, Rebecca and Cody, Gabrielle (eds.) *Re-Direction: A Theoretical and Practical Guide*. London/New York: Routledge, 2002. Cost \$89.95

THEA 406 Advanced Directing Course Reader Cost \$18.50

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Essay on a theatre directing topic (3,000 words)	Due Monday 2 May 5 p.m.	30%
Collaborative production role	Individual mark	20%
To be completed as part of the production process in Week One or Week Two of Trimester Two		
Directing project (30 minute play for public performance)	Week One or Two of Trimester Two	25%
Production portfolio (2,500 words)	Due Monday 3 October 5 p.m.	25%

Further details on these assessment tasks (including marking criteria) will be provided in class.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Administration Office in 83 Fairlie Terrace. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND 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.

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 specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend all classes. **Missed classes must be justified by a medical certificate.**

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. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

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>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

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Week 1 2 March Introduction/ planning (DOD, ME, JDAV, COL)

Week 2

Week 3 16 March Directing scene work : *The Cherry Orchard* (DOD, ME)

Week 4

Week 5 30 March Scenography and Text (JDAV) STUDIO 77

Week 6 Pitch plays to 324 students Tuesday 5 April 1pm.

Week 7 13 April Directing scene work: *The Cherry Orchard* (DOD, ME)

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 18 April – Sunday 1 May 2011

Week 8 **Essay due Monday 2 May 5p.m.**

Week 9 11 May Directing scene work: *Cloud Nine* (ME, DOD)

Week 10 Production meetings (TBA by Production managers)

Week 11 25 May Directing scene work: *Cloud Nine* (ME, DOD)

Week 12 Production meetings (TBA by Production managers)

Mid-Year Break: Monday 4 July – Sunday 10 July 2011

Rehearsals TBA by directors; Production meetings TBA by Production Managers

Week 1 13 July Class TBA. **Season One: Wed 13 – Sat 16 July 7.30p.m.**

Week 2 **Season Two: Wed 20 – Sat 23 July 7.30 p.m.**

Week 3 27 July Reflection on directing process (DOD, ME, JDAV)

Week 4

Week 5 10 August Directing devised work (ME, DOD)

Week 6

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Mid Trimester Break: Monday 22 August – Sunday 4 September 2011

Week 7 7 Sept Directing site-specific work (ME, DOD)

Week 8

Week 9 21 Sept Directing classical plays (ME, DOD)

Week 10

Production Portfolio due Monday 3 October 5 p.m.

Week 11 5 Oct Conclusions and future directions (DOD, ME, JDAV)

Week 12