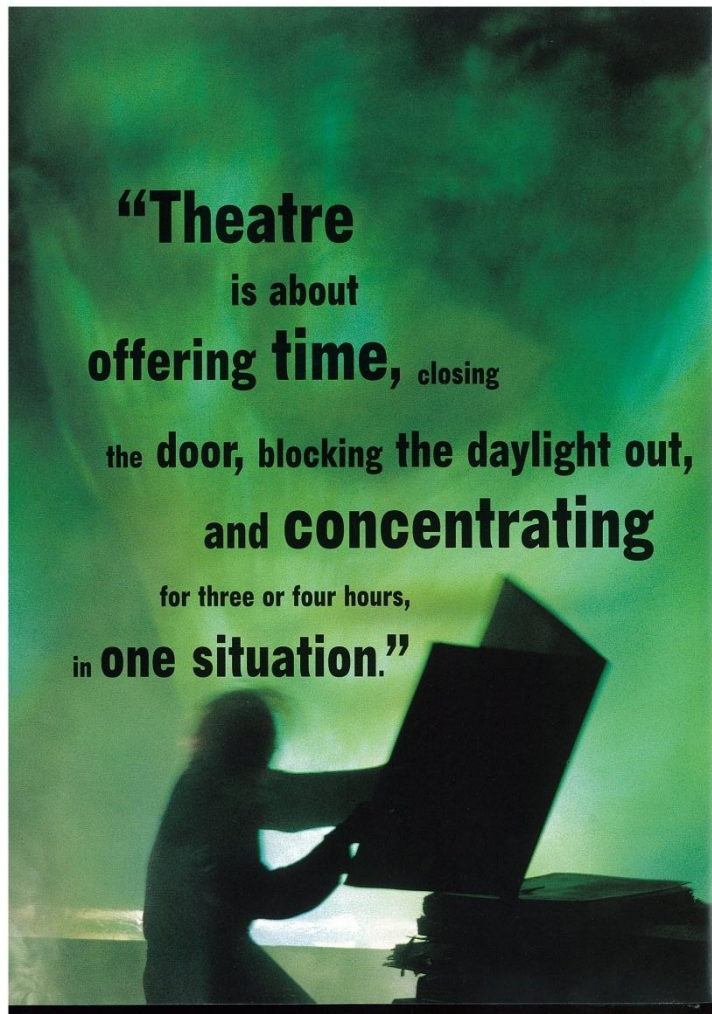


# THEA 511 Directing Method (MTA)

**Trimester 1 & 2 2011**

28 February to 12 November 2011

30 Points



## TRIMESTER DATES

VUW Teaching dates:	28 February to 14 October 2011
Mid-trimester break 1/3:	18 April to 1 May 2011
Mid-year break:	1 July to 10 July 2011
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	22 August to 4 September 2011
Last piece of assessment due:	21 October 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

### Course co-ordinator

Bronwyn Tweddle                                      Room 301, 77 Fairlie Terrace                                      Tel: 463 6852

Email: [Bronwyn.Tweddle@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Bronwyn.Tweddle@vuw.ac.nz) Office hours will be posted on her office door.

### Several 511 classes will be taught by:

Megan Evans                                      Room 302, 77 Fairlie Terrace                                      Tel: 463 9793

Email: [Megan.Evans@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Megan.Evans@vuw.ac.nz)

There may also be guest classes by other Victoria Theatre Programme and Toi Whakaari staff and theatre industry professionals.

### Course administrator

Claire O'Loughlin                                      Room 202, 83 Fairlie Terrace                                      Tel: 463 5359

Email: [claire.oloughlin@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:claire.oloughlin@vuw.ac.nz) Admin office hours: Monday – Friday, 10am – 5pm

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Fridays                      10am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm                      93 Kelburn Parade [unless otherwise advised]

[NB: the room is booked from 9am, for classes which require set-up]

As a courtesy to your fellow students and staff:

- Cell phones are to be turned off during classes and rehearsals
- It is expected that students will arrive punctually for their classes. Lateness to class or rehearsal will be noted, and taken into account in your mid-year and final Part 1 assessment meetings

## COURSE DELIVERY

A regular weekly workshop class, which introduces selected ways in which to structure and apply directorial practice. Questions of 'methodology' will be addressed and explored in practical ways.

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be sent via email in the first instance, so it is your responsibility to ensure that Bronwyn has your current email address and that you check your emails on a

regular basis. The information will also be posted on the THEA 511 notice board on level three, 77 FT, and/or posted on the Blackboard system. It is recommended therefore that students regularly check the notice boards and Blackboard in addition to their email. Bronwyn will endeavour to respond to emails from students within 2 working days.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

This course aims to provide historical, theoretical, and practical approaches to the directing of aesthetic performances. There are practical class exercises and assessed directing projects with performance outcomes, in collaboration with students of both institutions. Seminars, presented/facilitated by staff, guest artists/teachers, and the students themselves, examine methodologies and theatre research, and place the practical work into a broader context. Methods of documentation of artistic process are directly explored through the keeping of a journal during the length of the course.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the completion of the course, students should:

1. be increasingly familiar with the idea of praxis: formulating questions, examining them by experimentation, both practical and theoretical, and providing a concluding critique to the process
2. have investigated and explored, both theoretically and practically, several aspects of the directing process
3. have developed a familiarity and ability with theatre procedures, including script analysis, working with performers, shaping performance space and time, devising, and conceptualisation, as applied to the directorial process
4. have a sense of the development of directing methods over the past century, and in contemporary practice, and be able to identify and analyse the approaches and styles of different practitioners
5. have shared in, and contributed to, the artistic and educational ethos provided by Toi Whakaari and Theatre Programme at Victoria

## **EXPECTED WORKLOAD**

The university anticipates that you should be able to devote at least 12 hours per week to a full-year paper in a 4-paper graduate programme. Therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, about 6 hours per week (apart from THEA 511 class time) in reading, preparation, rehearsal, thinking and writing. This guideline generally applies to 400-level papers; however as THEA 511 is a masters-level paper, you should treat this as a *minimum* guideline. At Masters level it is expected that students will attend every class; if you are going to miss a class through ill health or whatever, please contact the course co-ordinator in advance if possible. Absences due to illness should be documented by a medical certificate.

## READINGS

Students will develop their own individual list of readings as part of clarifying their own methodological directions. Reading material will also be introduced during class sessions.

### Set reading

Twyla Tharp, **The Creative Habit – Learn It And Use it For Life**. New York: Simon & Shuster, 2003.

Katie Mitchell, **The Director's Craft – A Handbook for the Theatre**. London: Routledge, 2008

### Recommended Reading

Rebecca Schneider & Gabrielle Cody, eds: **Re:Direction**. London: Routledge, 2002.

Maria M. Delgado and Paul Heritage, **In Contact with the Gods? Directors Talk Theatre**. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1996.

Postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. You 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 you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

## MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Students should wear comfortable rehearsal clothing, which allows extended movement, to all classes.

The journal should be kept in a visual diary of no less than A4 size.

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

### Victoria Trimester One:

#### 1. Methodology Showing 1: Presentation on a Director **20%**

Proposal due: 5pm, 25 March [Length: 1000 words maximum]

Showing: 8 April

Written report due: 5pm, 21 April [Length: 1000 words maximum]

#### 2. Methodology Showing 2: Short Scene Working with Actors **15%**

Showing: 6 May

Written report due: 5pm, 13 May [Length: 1000 words maximum]

Victoria Trimester Two:

3. Methodology Showing 3: Classic Theatre/Dramaturgy project **30%**  
Showing: 14 & 15 September  
Written report due: 5pm, 30 September [Length: 1000 words maximum]
4. Journal: to be kept throughout the year **20%**  
Journal due: 5pm, 21 October
5. Class Exercises & Directing Process **15%**

Learning objectives and marking criteria are included in detailed assignment handouts posted on Blackboard. Assignments will be graded as either: Pass, Fail, Pass with Merit, or Pass with Distinction.

### **Relationship Between Assessment and Course Objectives**

All methodology showings are designed to develop students' praxis (learning objective 1). Methodology showing 1 particularly emphasises the formulation of artistic questions, through the writing of a proposal. The practice of process critique is developed in the reports on each showing and the journal. The investigation of directing process and theatre procedures (learning objective 2 & 3) occurs in class exercises and methodology showings. Knowledge of the development of directing and of specific practitioners' styles and approaches (learning objective 4), will be demonstrated in the Methodology 1 showing on the work of a key theatre director.

### **ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS**

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Administration Office in 83 Fairlie Terrace.

### **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. The course co-ordinator is the only person who can 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

All the assignments above must be completed to a satisfactory standard for a Pass in THEA 511 to be awarded. A high standard of attendance to both class and assignments is expected throughout.

## 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 journal may 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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).

#### THEA 511 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	4 March	Introduction to Methodology [BT]/History NZ Theatre [DOD]
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Week 2	11 March	<b>589 Self-presentations</b>
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Week 3	18 March	Stanislavskyan methods [DOD]
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Week 4	25 March	Stanislavskyan methods [DOD]
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Week 5	1 April	Brechtian methods [BT]
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Week 6	8 April	<b>511 Methodology 1 Showing: Director Presentation</b>
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Week 7	15 April	Noho Marae [no 511 class]
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**Mid Trimester Break:** Monday 18 April – Sunday 1 May 2011

Week 8	6 May	<b>511 Methodology 2 Showing: Scene with Actors</b>
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Week 9	13 May	Method 1
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Week 10	20 May	Method 1
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Week 11	27 May	Method 1
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Week 12	3 June	<b>589 Showing: Inspirational Artist</b>
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**Mid-Year Break:** Friday 1 July - Sunday 10 July 2011

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies  
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 511

Week 1	15 July	Production Process 1 [ME]
Week 2	22 July	Production Process 2 [ME]
Week 3	29 July	Method 2
Week 4	5 August	Method 2
Week 5	12 Aug	Method 2
Week 6	19 Aug	Production Process 3 [ME]
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b>	Monday 22 August – Sunday 4 September 2011	
Week 7	9 Sept	Production process 4 [ME]
Week 8	16 Sept	Method 3 <b>14 &amp; 15 Sept: Methodology showing 3: Classic Theatre/Dramaturgy Project</b>
Week 9	23 Sept	Method 3
Week 10	30 Sept	Method 3
Week 11	7 Oct	<b>589 Final Showing</b>
Week 12	14 Oct	Methodology round-up [NB: 21 October: Journal due]