

THEA 304 DIRECTING

Trimester 2 2011

11 July to 12 November 2011

30 Points



Heiner Müller tries to escape his directing responsibilities...

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	11 July to 14 October 2011
Mid-trimester break:	22 August to 4 September 2011
Study week:	17 to 21 October 2011
Last piece of assessment due:	10 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 Office hours by appointment.

Technical Officer

James Davenport Room 204, 77 Fairlie Terrace Tel: 463 6842
Email: james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz Office hours by appointment.

Administrator

Claire O'Loughlin Room 202, 83 Fairlie Terrace Tel: 463 5359
Email: claire.oloughlin@vuw.ac.nz Office hours 10am – 4.30pm, Monday – Friday

There will also be some classes taken by guest directors.

All students will be allocated a mentor for their directing project.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Mondays and Wednesdays 10am – 12.50pm Studio 77, 77 Fairlie Terrace

The first class will take place in 93KP, Monday 11 July at 10am.

NB: For the **first four weeks** classes will be in **93KP**.

Performances of all directing projects will occur in **Week 9** in Studio 77, 77 Fairlie Terrace.

COURSE DELIVERY

The course consists of two practical workshops per week. In addition to this students are expected to rehearse outside of class time leading to their production of a 10 minute directing project.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class, sent by email, posted on the course noticeboard, level three, 77FT, and/or posted on Blackboard system. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check the noticeboards, Blackboard and their email. It is also your responsibility to ensure that Bronwyn has your *current* contact details. Bronwyn will endeavour to respond to emails from students within 48 hours. If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

A practical study of fundamentals of theatre directing, with particular emphasis given to script analysis and working with actors. 100% internal assessment.

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 Bronwyn, Jim and invited practitioners.

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

During the **production** 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) collaborate on production work for their season as a whole (planning & paperwork, organising their actors' contribution to technical management, publicity)
- 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 season of productions for a public audience, as well as collaborating on the running of the season as a whole. 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 anticipates that you should be able to devote about 300 hours in total to a 30 point course. Therefore expect to spend around 20 hours per week outside of class time in reading, preparation, thinking, writing and rehearsal. However, the intensive practical nature of this course means that there will be periods during production work (in particular, the weeks prior to week 9 performance season) when this will be concentrated. **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 MAY 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

Essential texts:

THEA 304 Course Reader (Available from Student Notes, approx. \$40.00).

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.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 4 to 22 July 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 4 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 nominated collection points at each campus. You will be contacted when they are available.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment task	Description	% of final mark	Due date
Directing Project	10 minute play	30	Completed by pack-out week 9
Production work	Small tasks as required	20	Completed by pack-out week 9
Director's workbook	Documentation and analysis of your directing project	30	Due Friday 30 September, 4pm
Study presentation on a major theatre director	20 minutes plus Q & A time	20	3, 5 or 10 October (in class)

Each of these assessments has been designed to develop your skills in and knowledge of the theory and practice of theatre directing. All work is individually assessed.

Relationship between assessment and learning objectives

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 design and directing actors. The keeping of a **director's 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.

The **study presentation on a major theatre director** develops understanding of the history and methodologies of directing. **Production work** develops skills in technical theatre production and the ability to work collaboratively.

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

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

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Administration Office in 83 Fairlie Terrace, room 202.

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 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

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.

In order to pass the course, completion and submission of all assignments is required.

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. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this 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.

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 in the staff car park between 83 and 85 Fairlie Terrace.

Food

- Food may only be consumed in the 77FT Green Room, and 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 85 FT (except kitchen areas listed above).
- Student and staff using kitchen areas are expected to clean up after themselves. Strictly no food or drink in the Robert Lord Library or 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 Theatre Programme Administrator in Room 202, 83 Fairlie Terrace.
- 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

- Students will be responsible for booking their own room spaces for rehearsals through the Theatre Programme Administrator, Claire O'Loughlin.
 - 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	11 July	Introduction/History & Role of the Director
	13 July	Script Analysis
Week 2	18 July	Research & Conceptualisation
	20 July	Auditions & Casting
Week 3	25 July	Planning Rehearsals
	27 July	Running Rehearsals: Warm-ups & Voice
Week 4	1 August	Image-making & Blocking
	3 August	Physicality & Gesture
Week 5	8 August	Giving Actors Feedback
	10 August	Directing Chorus
Week 6	15 August	Lighting & Sound Design [JDav]
	17 August	Theatre Design [JDav] & Production Problem-Solving
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 22 August to Sunday 4 September 2011		
Week 7	5 September	Rhythm & Action
	7 September	Shaping Performance
Week 8	12 September	Managing Tech & Performance Processes [JDav]
	14 September	The Director's Role After Opening
Week 9	19 September	Guest Director
	21 September	Guest Director
PERFORMANCES WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY		
Week 10	26 September	Production Debrief [Season A]
	28 September	Production Debrief [Season B]
FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER, 4PM: DIRECTOR'S WORKBOOK DUE		
Week 11	3 October	Study Presentation [1, 2, 3, 4]
	5 October	Study Presentation [5, 6, 7, 8]
Week 12	10 October	Study Presentation [9, 10, 11, 12]
	12 October	Conclusions