

## THEA 304 Directing

**Trimester 2 2012**

16 July to 17 November 2012

**30 Points**



Sasha Waltz' production of *Allee der Kosmonauten* (1996)

### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	16 July to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Last piece of assessment due:	15 October 2012

### 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

<b>Course Coordinator:</b>	Bronwyn Tweddle	bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz	463 6852	FT77 301
<b>Teaching Staff:</b>	James Davenport	james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz	463 6842	FT77 310
<b>Course Administrator:</b>	Cathy McCullagh	cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz	463 5359	FT83 202

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

### Practical Workshops

Monday/Wednesday                              10am – 12.50pm                              FT77 102 (Studio 77)

Performances of all directing projects will occur in **Week 9** of Trimester 2 in Studio 77, 77 Fairlie Terrace.

## TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

The course consists of two practical workshops per week. **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 addition to this students are expected to rehearse outside of class time leading to their production of a 10 minute directing project. Students will be responsible for booking their own spaces for rehearsals through the Theatre Programme Administrator, Cathy McCullagh.

## 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, 77 FT, 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.

## 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. Detail of specific objectives and marking criteria for each piece of assessment can be found on the assessment handouts distributed in week one of the trimester.

### 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 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 9–27 July 2012, 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](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 nominated collection points at each campus. You 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.

## 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	Final workbook installment due Friday 5 October, 4pm
Study presentation on a major theatre director	20 minutes plus Q & A time	20	8, 10 or 15 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, distributed in week one of the trimester. **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 room 202, 83 Fairlie Terrace. Remember to fill in your course coordinator'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 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](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 304 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	16 July	Introduction/History & Role of the Director
	18 July	Script Analysis
Week 2	12 July	Research & Conceptualisation
	25 July	Auditions & Casting
Week 3	30 July	Planning Rehearsals
	1 Aug	Running Rehearsals: Warm-ups & Voice
Week 4	6 Aug	Image-making & Blocking
	8 Aug	Physicality & Gesture
Week 5	13 Aug	Giving Actors Feedback
	15 Aug	Directing Chorus
Week 6	20 Aug	Lighting & Sound Design [JDav]
	22 Aug	Theatre Design [JDav] & Production Problem-Solving
Mid Trimester Break:	Monday 27 August to Sunday 9 September 2012	
Week 7	10 Sept	Rhythm & Action
	12 Sept	Shaping Performance

**School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies**  
**THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 304**

Week 8	17 Sept	Managing Tech & Performance Processes [JDav]
	19 Sept	The Director's Role After Opening
Week 9	24 Sept	Guest Director
	26 Sept	Guest Director
<b>PERFORMANCES WEDNESDAY 26 – SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER</b>		
Week 10	1 Oct	Production Debrief [Season A]
	3 Oct	Production Debrief [Season B]
<b>FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER, 4PM: FINAL INSTALLMENT OF DIRECTOR'S WORKBOOK DUE</b>		
Week 11	8 Oct	Study Presentation [1, 2, 3, 4]
	10 Oct	Study Presentation [5, 6, 7, 8]
Week 12	15 Oct	Study Presentation [9, 10, 11, 12]
	17 Oct	Conclusions

Study week: 22 to 26 October 2012