

# THEA 403 / ENGL 453 Drama and Theatre in Aotearoa New Zealand

**Trimester 2 2012**

16 July to 17 November 2012

**30 Points**



*The Candlestickmaker* by Jacob Rajan and Justin Lewis

## TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	16 July to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Last piece of assessment due:	19 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>	David O'Donnell	<a href="mailto:david.odonnell@vuw.ac.nz">david.odonnell@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 6828	FT77/303
Office hours on door				
<b>Course Administrator:</b>	Cathy McCullagh	<a href="mailto:cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz">cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 5359	FT83/202
Office hours: Monday – Friday, 10am – 4.30pm				

### CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Tuesdays	3:10 – 6:00PM	FT77/208
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### TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

This course will be delivered through weekly 3-hour seminars, involving discussion and presentations.

### COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information or changes will be announced in class and/or posted on the course notice board at FT77, Level 3, and/or posted on Blackboard.

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

This course explores the theatre of Aotearoa New Zealand by studying a range of play-scripts from the colonial era to the present day, through the lens of post-colonial theory. Topics include the evolution of nationalist drama, the growth of professional theatre and playwriting, the development of Maori and Pasifika theatre, and contemporary trends towards inter-cultural and devised theatre.

### COURSE CONTENT

The course will offer selected topics in the theatre of Aotearoa New Zealand. A range of plays will be studied in relation to historical and contemporary theatre conventions, as well as from the point of view of a variety of critical approaches including colonial, nationalist, post-colonial, and feminist. Attention will be paid to Māori theatrical and paratheatrical forms, and to contemporary developments in syncretic and intercultural theatre.

All students should prepare for each class by reading the relevant play and any critical readings set for that session. Contribution to class discussions will not be formally assessed, but will be taken into account when the final grade is being considered.

Students are encouraged to make full use of the Robert Lord Library at 77 Fairlie Terrace (see Course Coordinator for access). Please note that **Library materials do not leave the building**. The Green Room is

also available to students in the Theatre Programme. You **are** expected to clean up after yourselves (this includes returning any mugs removed from the Green Room). If you wish to keep your own tea or coffee in the building, there is a locked cupboard for this purpose in the Green Room (see Administrator for a key). No food or beverages are allowed in the Library. A number of video tapes of New Zealand plays are held in the locked shelves in the Robert Lord Library; the key is available from the Administrator so that they may be viewed at any available VCR in the building. Tapes may not be taken out of the building.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students passing the course should be able to ...

- investigate the development of drama and theatre in Aotearoa New Zealand in historical, cultural and performance contexts.
- explore recurrent themes in New Zealand drama and their relation to the construction of post-colonial identity.
- develop research skills and clear critical writing about the history of New Zealand drama and theatre.
- recognise and explore the influence of European (and other) dramatic styles on the development of New Zealand drama.
- recognise and explore the influence of Māori and Pacific Island performance modes on the development of New Zealand drama, and to explore the distinct development of Māori and Pacific theatre.
- investigate a variety of creative and critical approaches to New Zealand drama.
- develop skills in close reading of New Zealand plays in a critical context.

## EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours spread evenly over the 12 week trimester and breaks, or 20 hours per teaching week. At Honours level it is expected that students will attend every seminar; if you are going to miss a seminar, please contact the course co-ordinator in advance if possible.

## READINGS

### Essential texts:

THEA 403/ENGL 453 Student Notes, available from vicbooks

O'Donnell, David (ed.) *No. 8 Wire: 8 Plays 8 Decades* (Wellington: Playmarket, 2011)

Leitch, George, *Land of the Moa* (Wellington: VUP, 1990)

\* Mason, Bruce, *Awatea*, 2nd ed. (Wellington: VUP, 1978)

McGee, Greg, *Foreskin's Lament* (Wellington: VUP, 1981)

Grace-Smith, Briar, *Purapurawhetu* (Wellington: Huia, 1999)

Kightley, Oscar and Small, Simon, *Fresh off the Boat* (Wellington: Play Press, 2005)

Randerson, Jo (and Trouble), *The Lead Wait* and *The Unforgiven Harvest* (Wellington: Playmarket, 2010).

Thomas, Mitch Tawhi, *Have Car Will Travel* (Wellington: Tawata, 2010)

Rajan, Jacob and Lewis, Justin. *Indian Ink: Krishnan's Dairy, The Candlestickmaker, The Pickle King*. Wellington: VUP, 2005.

\* Class set available on loan from the Course Coordinator.

All 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.

The Handbook for SEFTMS Students (about 100 pages on assessment, analyzing poetry, grammar, glossary of critical and theatrical terms, etc.) is available on Blackboard.

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

### All assessment is internal.

Seminar Presentation	(approx. 30 minutes). Presented in-class (dates to be arranged).	25%
Essay 1	2, 500 words ( <b>due Friday 24 August, 12 noon</b> )	35%
Essay 2	3, 000 words ( <b>due Fri 19 Oct, 12 noon</b> )	40%

Further details on these assignments will be available early in the course.

### Relationship between assessment and objectives

All assessment has the twofold objective of assessing students' progress in the course and of providing feedback to assist students to achieve the course objectives.

Assignments will require students to demonstrate general expertise in **critical thinking** and **communication**, and particularly in the concepts and content covered in the course. Seminar presentations also have a **leadership** component. In addition, both written and oral assessments require you to make original connections between particular, concrete works of dramatic art and general, abstract critical

theory, which involves **creative thinking**. Both the written and oral assignments, moreover, provide opportunities to practice and develop advanced skills in **research, information management, and oral and written communication**, which are both generally valuable and vital for professional success.

*Note: All written assignments must be handed in to the Theatre Programme drop slot in 83 Fairlie Terrace. Please note there are no student printing facilities at Fairlie Terrace. Honours grades gained in individual papers are always subordinate to the overall assessment made by the full group of examiners for the Honours programme as a whole.*

### **ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS**

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

### **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**

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Complete and submit all assignments, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend at least 10 of the 12 seminars

### **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 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

*The following text must be included in all course outlines.*

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).

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies  
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 403 / ENGL 453

**THEA 403 / ENGL 453 COURSE PROGRAMME**

Week 1	17 July	Introduction and overview of NZ theatre history
Week 2	24 July	Colonial NZ: <i>The Land of the Moa</i>
Week 3	31 July	The amateur years: <i>The Willing Horse</i> and <i>Rabbits</i>
Week 4	7 August	Nationalism/Bruce Mason <i>Awatea</i>
Week 5	14 Aug	Cultural identity/ growth of professional theatre: <i>Foreskin's Lament</i>
Week 6	21 Aug	Fiona Samuel <i>One Flesh</i> <b>Essay 1 due Fri 24 Aug 12 noon</b>
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b> Monday 27 August to Sunday 9 September 2012		
Week 7	11 Sept	Māori theatre: <i>Purapurawhetu</i>
Week 8	18 Sept	Pacific Island theatre: <i>Fresh off the Boat</i>
Week 9	25 Sept	Devised theatre: SEED
Week 10	2 Oct	Jo Randerson: <i>Unforgiven Harvest</i>
Week 11	9 Oct	New Māori theatre: <i>Have Car Will Travel</i>
Week 12	16 Oct	Towards a Pacific multicultural theatre: <i>The Candlestickmaker</i> <b>Essay 2 due Fri 19 October at 12 noon</b>