

THEA 406 Special Topic: Advanced Directing

Trimester 1+2 2012

5 March to 17 November 2012

30 Points



Théâtre du Soliel's *Les Éphémères*, directed by Ariane Mnouchkine
with Camille Grandville, left, and Juliana Carneiro da Cunha.

"Everyday intimacies and the intensity of a ringing phone"—NY Times Reviewer Charles Isherwood

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	5 March to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break 1/3:	6 to 22 April 2012
Mid-trimester break2/3:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Study week:	22 to 26 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

Course Coordinator	Megan Evans	megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz	463 9793	77FT/Rm 302
Course Administrator	Cathy McCullagh	cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz	463 5359	83FT/Rm 202

Staff Office Hours are posted on Blackboard, and we are also available by appointment.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Wednesday 3.10 – 6pm 93KP (alternate weeks beginning Wednesday 14 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, Cathy McCullagh. The first class will take place in 93KP, Wednesday 14 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 Megan Evans for advice.

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 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

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 Student Notes Cost \$18.50

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 the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Essay on a theatre directing topic (3,000 words)	Due Monday 7 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 8 October 5 p.m.

25%

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

Please note that grades gained in individual courses 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 Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor'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

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. 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.

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THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 406

THEA 406 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1

Week 2 14 March Introduction/ planning

Week 3

Week 4 28 March Directing scene work : *The Cherry Orchard*
Pitching to Designers

Week 5

Mid Trimester Break Friday 6 April – Sunday 22 April 2012
Rehearsals TBA by directors; Production meetings TBA by Production Managers

Week 6 25 April ANZAC DAY - PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Week 7 NOTE: This week pitch projects

Week 8 9 May Directing scene work: *The Cherry Orchard*

Week 9 **Essay due Monday 7 May 5p.m.**

Week 10 23 May Directing scene work: *Cloud Nine*

Week 11 Production meetings (TBA by Production managers)

Week 12 6 June Directing scene work: *Cloud Nine*

Mid-Year Break: Thursday 5 July – Sunday 15 July 2012
Rehearsals TBA by directors; Production meetings TBA by Production Managers

Week 13 **Season One: Wed 18 – Sat 21 July 7.30p.m.**

Week 14 25 July Class TBA. **Season Two: Wed 25 – Sat 28 July 7.30 p.m.**

Week 15

Week 16 8 August Reflection on directing process

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Week 17

Week 18 22 August Directing devised work

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 27 August to Sunday 9 September 2012

Week 19

Week 20 19 Sept Directing site-specific work

Week 21

Week 22 3 Oct Directing classical plays

Week 23

Production Portfolio due Monday 8 October 5 p.m.

Week 24 17 Oct Conclusions and future directions