

THEA 511 Directing Method

Trimester 1+2 2012

5 March to 17 November 2012

30 Points



Woyzeck by Georg Büchner, directed by Robert Wilson for the Berliner Ensemble

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	5 March to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break 1/3:	6 to 22 April 2012
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Study week:	22 to 26 October 2012

Please note: The term dates at Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School differ from those at Victoria and are as follows:

Term 1:	20 February to 5 April 2012
Term 2:	23 April to 15 June 2012
Term 3:	9 July to 31 August 2012
Term 4:	17 September to 16 November 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

Trimester 1: David O'Donnell david.odonnell@vuw.ac.nz 463 6828 FT77 303

Trimester 2: Bronwyn Tweddle bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz 4636 852 FT77 301

Course Administrator Cathy McCullagh cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz 463 5359 FT83 202

The course will also be taught by:

Lori Leigh lori.leigh@vuw.ac.nz 463 6712 FT77 304

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Fridays 10.15am – 1.15pm and 2.10pm – 5pm 93KP 101

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

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 the Course Coordinator has your current email address and that you check your emails on a regular basis. The information will also be posted on the Blackboard system. It is recommended therefore that students regularly Blackboard in addition to their email.

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 investigates a variety of approaches to directing. Fundamental procedures from script analysis to final production are explored in practical workshops, and in the context of weekly seminars and a reading and viewing programme including study of the work of leading contemporary directors.

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 passing the course 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.

Essential Texts

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. 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.

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%**

Showing: 11 May

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

Showing: 8 June

Written report due: 5pm, 15 June [Length: 1000 words maximum]

Victoria Trimester Two:

3. Methodology Showing 3: Classic Theatre/Dramaturgy project **30%**

Showing: 18 & 19 September

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

4. Journal: to be kept throughout the year **20%**

Journal due: 5pm, 26 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). The practice of process critique is developed in the reports on showing 2 and 3 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 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

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. 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.

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

THEA 511 COURSE PROGRAMME

Includes: lecture content, assessment dates and examination period if relevant

Week 1	9 March	Introduction to Methodology/ Context: NZ Theatre (DOD)
Week 2	16 March	589 Self-presentations
Week 3	23 March	Method 1: Introduction to Stanislavsky (DOD)
Week 4	30 March	Method 2: Viewpoints (Annie Ruth)
Week 5	6 April	No class (Noho Marae)
Mid Trimester Break: Friday 6 April to Sunday 22 April 2012		
Week 6	27 April	Method 1: Stanislavsky (DOD)/ Directing THEA101 students (Viewpoints)
Week 7	4 May	Method 1: Stanislavsky (LL)/ Directing THEA101 students (Stanislavsky)
Week 8	11 May	511 Methodology 1 Showing: Director Presentation
Week 9	18 May	Method 3: Brecht (LL)
Week 10	25 May	Method 3: Brecht (LL)/ Directing THEA 101 students (Brecht)
Week 11	1 June	Method 3: Brecht (DOD)/ Directing Thea 101 students (Brecht)
Week 12	8 June	511 Methodology 1 showing: Scene with Actors
Mid Year Break: Thursday 5 July to Sunday 15 July 2012		
Week 1	20 July	589 Showing: Inspirational Artist
Week 2	27 July	Production Process 1 (BT)
Week 3	3 Aug	Method 4: Commedia Dell-Arte (TMcC)
Week 4	10 Aug	Method 4: Commedia Dell-Arte (TMcC)
Week 5	17 Aug	Method 4: Commedia Dell-Arte (TMcC)
Week 6	24 Aug	Production Process 2 (BT)

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THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 511

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

Week 7 14 Sept Production process 3 (BT)

Week 8 21 Sept Method 5 (TBC)

18 & 19 Sept: Methodology showing 3: Classic theatre/Dramaturgy project

Week 9 28 Sept Method 5 (TBC)

Week 10 5 Oct Method 5 (TBC)

Week 11 12 Oct **589 final showing**

Week 12 19 Oct Methodology round-up **((NB: Journal due 26 October))**

Study Week: Monday 22 October to 26 October 2012