

THEA 589 Research Project (MTA)

Trimester 1+2 2012

5 March to 17 November 2012

30 Points



***Mnemonic* directed by Simon McBurney for Theatre de Complicite**

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 Supervisors	David O'Donnell	david.odonnell@vuw.ac.nz	463 6828	77FT/303
	Brett Adam	Brett.Adam@toiwhakaari.ac.nz	381 9228	Toi Whakaari

The course will also be taught by:

Lori Leigh	lori.leigh@vuw.ac.nz	463 6712	FT77 304
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489/589 research methods classes will be taught by

James McKinnon	james.mckinnon@Vuw.ac.nz	4636115	77FT/307
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Course Administrator	Cathy McCullagh	cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz	463 5359	83FT/202
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CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Formal classes:

589 course discussion and students' presentation of performance projects will take place in the THEA 511 time slot. 7 hour-long Research Methods classes with James McKinnon, in conjunction with VUW Honours students, will occur early in the year.

Research Methods classes with James McKinnon are in Room 305, 77 Fairlie Terrace on the following days:

- Wed 7 March, 12 noon
- Wed 14 March, 12 noon
- Wed 21 March, 12 noon
- Wed 28 March, 12 noon
- Wed 2 May, 12 noon
- Wed 18 July, 12 noon
- Wed 14 Aug, 12 noon

Supervision:

In addition, each student will meet individually with a supervisor, with times and dates to be set by the student and supervisor together. The bulk of the course, however, is designed as independent research on the student's part.

COURSE DELIVERY

Students will be assigned to a supervisor (either the Part 1 or Part 2 MTA Co-ordinator) for their research project and will work with this supervisor to choose a research topic relevant to their evolution as a

director. Students will conduct research into this topic, producing an annotated bibliography and making presentations relevant to the research question. The findings of the research will be presented both in performative and written forms at the conclusion of the course. Students will regularly meet with their supervisors, and there will also be a number of formal classes that will provide students with advanced research skills and will give them the opportunity to discuss their project.

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 check 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 gives students the opportunity to pursue an individual research project with regular guidance and support from a supervisor. Practical and creative work will be included as part of each research project. 100% internal assessment.

COURSE CONTENT

What kind of director/artist am I? This is the question that THEA 589 is designed to help you ask and explore. The paper is largely independent research – with guidance, students will formulate a personal and substantive research question for the paper and for Part I of the degree more generally. Relying on self-driven research, and assisted by one-on-one supervision, occasional group meetings, and links with other papers on the degree, students in THEA 589 will each propose and execute a tailored research project; this project will result in written and creative articulations of the student's findings and of his/her individual directing methodologies. From this perspective, the paper is set up to foster in students a strong sense of the artist as researcher/investigator.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students will have:

- successfully completed performative projects, based on their research, that require initiative, leadership, and risk-taking. (Developing leadership and creative skills)
- begun forming and articulating (both critically and practically) a sense of their individual directing aesthetics, goals, and methodologies. (Developing critical, communication and leadership skills)
- practised the task of writing proposals for theatrical projects. (Developing communication skills)

- broadened their critical reading, in direct relationship to their own interests as directors.
(Developing critical skills)
- prepared themselves for Part 2 of the degree, having practiced many of the requisite theoretical and practical skills utilized in Part 2.
- gained a strong understanding of the role of research, and spirit of investigation, in artistic work.
(Developing critical skills)

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 several hours per week (apart from THEA 589 class time) in reading, preparation, rehearsal, thinking and writing. This guideline generally applies to 400-level papers; however as THEA 589 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

To be set in consultations between each student and his/her supervisor.

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Any additional materials and equipment required will depend upon the nature of the research project defined by the student and their supervisor.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

There will be four pieces of assessment for this paper

1. Self-Presentation Showing 20% **Friday 16 March**
This is the first articulation of the student’s directing methodology, as informed by his/her research question, and specifically addressing the question: Who am I as an artist?
Length: 5 Minute Performance, with oral critique
2. Annotated Bibliography 20% **Due: 5pm, Friday 20 April**
Length: 2000-2500 words (roughly 15-20 sources)
3. Inspirational Artist Showing 20% **Friday 20 July**
A 15 minute performative presentation on an artist who inspires you and how it informs your directing

methodology

4. Final Performance Showing 40% (as constituted below)

The final articulation of the student's directing methodology, as informed by his/her research question

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Proposal | Due 5pm, Friday 10 August | 10% of overall course grade |
| b. 15 Minute Performance | Friday 12 October | 20% of overall course grade |
| c. Report: | Due 5pm, Monday 29 October | 10% of overall course grade |

Further details and marking criteria are included in detailed assignment handouts posted on Blackboard.

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 589 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.