

## THEA 406 Special Topic: Advanced Directing

**Trimester 1+2 2013**

4 March to 17 November 2013

**30 Points**



*The Conduct of Life*, Directed by Marti Lyon  
Tooth and Nail Ensemble & Two Lights Ensemble,  
Chicago, 2009

Choreographer Jean Kerr 'translat[es]  
unwatchable acts into grotesque art without  
losing the power or significance of those  
atrocities'. J. Scott Hill, *Chicago Stage Review*

### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	4 March to 18 October 2013
Easter break:	28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break 1/3:	22 to 28 April 2013
Mid-year break:	4 to 14 July 2013
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	26 August to 8 September 2013

### WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds>

## NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	Megan Evans	<a href="mailto:megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz">megan.evans@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 9793	77FT/Rm 303
<b>Programme Administrator</b>	Cathy McCullagh	<a href="mailto:cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz">cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 5359	83FT/Rm 202

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

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Lectures

Thursday            3.10 – 6pm            93KP

(meets most weeks in tri 1, occasionally in tri 2 tbc, for a total of 12 meetings over the year)

## TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

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, 77 Fairlie Terrace.

Students will be responsible for booking their own room spaces for rehearsals by emailing the Programme Administrator, Cathy McCullagh. The first class will take place in 93KP, Thursday 7 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 on blackboard and/or distributed by 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. If you are uncertain about any elements relating to classes and course assignments, please email Course Coordinator for advice.

## 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) course 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

THEA 406 Advanced Directing Student Notes, cost tbc.

From 11 February to 15 March 2013 all postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks on the ground floor of the Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks Easterfield 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 the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

### ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Essay on a theatre directing topic (3,000 words)	Due Thurs 16 May in class	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%
Draft Production portfolio (2,500 words)	Due Thursday 22 August in class	
Final Production portfolio	Due Thursday 10 October in class	25%

(Final Production portfolio will include analysis of/reflection on practice-led research involving reworking a 5 minute segment of directing project script (practical exploration of 'what I would do differently next time')

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

**Please note:** Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Note also that Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

### ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Administration office: 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 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.**

### 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>

#### 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar) (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).

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THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 406

**THEA 406 COURSE PROGRAMME**

Week 1	7 Mar	Introduction/ planning	Reading: Bogart pp. 1-78
Week 2	14 Mar	Choosing a play	Reading: Bogart pp. 79-155
Week 3	21 Mar	Script Analysis	Readings: Fornès, <i>The Conduct of Life</i> (CR 1-14) Merlin, 'Mining the Text' (CR 16-44)
Week 4	28 Mar	EASTER BREAK – no class	
Week 5	4 Apr	World of the Play ( <i>Conduct of Life</i> ) Pitching to Designers	Readings: Alfreds, 'World of the play' (CR 112-129) Re-read <i>The Conduct of Life</i>
Week 6	11 Apr	Draft Design Pitch	
Week 7	18 Apr	No class // Design Pitch tbc organized by Production Managers & Jim Davenport	
<b>Mid Trimester Break</b>		Mon 22 April – Sun 28 April 2013	
Rehearsals TBA by directors; Production meetings TBA by Production Managers			
Week 8	2 May	Working with Designers Auditions/Casting	Readings: Oren 'The Design Idea' (CR 130-178) Alfreds, 'Casting' (CR 179-180)
Week 9	9 May	Composition & Image Making ( <i>Conduct</i> )	Reading: Hodge, 'Composition' (CR 181-196)
Week 10	16 May	Composition & Image Making (chosen plays)	<b>ESSAY #1 DUE in class</b>
Week 11	23 May	First Rehearsals & Rehearsal Planning	Readings: Mitchell, 'Rehearsals' (CR 197-219) Bogart, 'Viewpoints' & 'Composition Toward Rehearsing a Play' (CR 214-219)
Week 12	30 May	Working with Actors	Readings: Merlin, 'Embodying the Role' (CR 45-76) Binnerts, 'Acting in Real Time' (CR 220-235)
Wk 13A	6 June	Production meeting/Build Planning/Rehearsal Space allocation	
<b>Mid-Year Break:</b>		Monday 4 July – Sunday 14 July 2013	
Rehearsals TBA by directors; Production meetings TBA by Production Managers			

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Wk 13B	18 Jul	No class	<b>Season One: Wed 17 – Sat 20 July 7.30p.m.</b>
Week 14	25 Jul	No class	<b>Season Two: Wed 24 – Sat 27 July 7.30 p.m.</b>
Week 15	1 Aug	Reflection on directing process	
Week 16	8 Aug	No class	
Week 17	15 Aug	No class	
Week 18	22 Aug	Future directions	<b>Draft Production portfolio DUE in class</b>
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b> Mon 26 August to Sun 8 September 2013			
Week 19	12 Sep	Independent practice-led research	
Week 20	19 Sep	Independent practice-led research	
Week 21	26 Sep	Independent practice-led research	
Week 22	3 Oct	Independent practice-led research	
Week 23	10 Oct	Final showings/Presentations	<b>Final Production portfolio DUE in class</b>
Week 24	17 Oct	No class	