

THEA 511 Directing Method

Trimester 1+2 2013

4 March to 17 November 2013

30 Points



Andre Wilms in *ERARITJARITJAKA*, created and directed by Heiner Goebbels [at the NZ International festival in 2006]

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 to 8 September 2013
Last piece of assessment due:	1 November 2013

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

Term 1:	18 February to 12 April 2013
Term 2:	29 April to 14 June 2013
Term 3:	8 July to 30 August 2013
Term 4:	16 September to 15 November 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

Course Coordinator: Bronwyn Tweddle bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz 4636 852 FT77 301

The course may also be taught by some guest lecturers, both Theatre Programme staff and outside experts.

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

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Fridays 10am – 12.50pm and 2.10pm – 5pm 93KP 101

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

TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

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

In the MTA as a whole, the students will also have shared in, and contributed to, the artistic and educational ethos provided by Toi Whakaari and Theatre Programme at Victoria.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

It is always difficult to specify precisely the workload of courses which have a high practical and creative content. The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week. This means you should expect to spend an average of about 14 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, preparation, thinking, writing and rehearsal. A substantial portion of this will be scheduled rehearsal time, and your research and writing time will need to take place in addition to that. 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

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.

Jon Whitmore, **Directing Post-modern Theater**. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1994.

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.

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.

Postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the new vicbooks store on the ground floor of the Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade from 11 February to 15 March 2013. 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: **3 May**

2. Methodology Showing 2: Short Scene Working with Actors **20%**

Showing: **31 May**

Written report due: 5pm, **14 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, **2/3 October** [Length: 1000 words maximum]

4. Journal: to be kept throughout the year **30%**

Journal due: 5pm, **1 November**

Learning objectives and marking criteria are included in detailed assignment handouts posted on Blackboard.

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: 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

All the assignments above must be completed for a Pass in THEA 511 to be awarded.

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.

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 (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.

THEA 511 COURSE PROGRAMME

Trimester 1

Week 1 8 March AM: Context: NZ Theatre [DOD]
PM: Introduction to Methodology [BT]

Week 2 15 March **589 Self-presentations**

Week 3 22 March Production Process

Week 4 29 March **NO CLASS – EASTER BREAK**

Easter Break: Thursday 28 March to Wednesday 3 April 2013

Week 5 5 April Production Process

Week 6 12 April **NO CLASS - MARAE NOHO**

Week 7 19 April Production Process

Mid-Trimester Break: Monday 22 to Sunday 28 April 2013

Week 8 3 May **511 Methodology 1 Showing: Director Presentation**

Week 9 10 May Method 1: Stanislavsky

Week 10 17 May Method 1: Stanislavsky

Week 11 24 May Method 2: Brecht

Week 12 31 May Method 2: Brecht

Week 13 7 June **511 Methodology 1 showing: Scene with Actors**

Mid-Year Break: Thursday 4 July to Sunday 14 July 2013

Trimester 2

Week 13 19 July **589 Showing: Inspirational Artist**

Week 14 26 July Method 3: Commedia dell'arte

Week 15 2 Aug Method 3: Commedia dell'arte

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THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 511

Week 16 9 Aug Method 3: Commedia dell'arte

Week 17 16 Aug Method 4

Week 18 23 Aug Method 4

Mid-Trimester Break: Monday 26 August to Sunday 8 September 2013

Week 19 13 Sept Method 4

Week 20 20 Sept Method 5

Week 21 27 Sept Method 5

Week 22 4 Oct Method 5

Week 23 11 Oct **589 Final Performance Showing**

Week 24 18 Oct Methodology round-up

Study Week: Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October 2013