

# THEA 210 Scenography: Introduction to Theatre Technologies and Performance Design

Trimester 2 2013

15 July to 17 November 2013

20 Points



Alex Funke on set of *Drowning Man*

## TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 15 July to 18 October 2013

Mid-trimester break: 26 August to 8 September 2013

## WITHDRAWAL DATES

Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

### CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Tuesday, Friday	10.00 - 11.50am	77 Fairlie Tce, 102 (Studio 77)
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### NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Course Coordinator:</b>	James Davenport	<a href="mailto:james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz">james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 6842	FT77/310
<b>Theatre Technician:</b>	Nick Zwart	<a href="mailto:nick.zwart@vuw.ac.nz">nick.zwart@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 8950	FT77/204
<b>Course Administrator:</b>	Cathy McCullagh	<a href="mailto:cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz">cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 5359	FT83/202

### COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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.

### PRESCRIPTION

This course explores theoretical and practical elements of scenography and stagecraft necessary in mounting theatrical productions, with intensive training in performance technologies with playtext and production design analysis, and historical research. Students will gain an understanding of the disciplines of performance design, technical production roles, and theatre technologies.

### COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Gain a full understanding of core technical principles in mounting a theatrical production.
2. Learn stage terminology, stage directions, and the different kinds of theatrical spaces and their parts.
3. Develop an understanding of all the responsibilities of the various designers and technicians involved in creating a theatrical production.
4. Acquire a sound understanding of the basic elements of design, including scenic, lighting, sound, costume, and multi media design.
5. Develop the skills to operate safely the theatre's technical equipment, including lighting units, lighting console, power tools, sound, and AV /multi media equipment.
6. Gain an historical and theoretical insight into theatrical technologies.
7. Develop a deeper understanding of the different types and styles of live performance and how technologies impact on them.

### TEACHING FORMAT

This course will be delivered using lectures, practical workshops, and class discussions.

## MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50% students must:

- Complete all assignments on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).
- Attend 80% of class sessions.
- Complete 20 hours of workshop participation.

## WORKLOAD

It is always difficult to precisely specify the workload of courses which have a high practical and creative content. The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours spread evenly over the 12 week trimester and breaks, or 13 hours per teaching week. Therefore you should probably expect to spend on average about 9 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, image collecting, thinking, writing and design work. The intensive practical nature of this course means that there will be periods during project and production work when these hours will be significantly increased, particularly during the major production period in August and September. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE TAKE SPECIAL CARE WITH YOUR TIME MANAGEMENT, making sure you can balance your workload on this course with your work on other university courses. You should also take particular care with your general health and wellbeing.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	1000 word essay  This essay is an analytical discussion of a live theatrical production. This will allow you to exercise critical thinking skills when considering and discussing the scenographic elements of a theatrical production. This essay will also enable you to examine and discuss how the specific scenographic elements influence the play text and production thematically and stylistically. How clearly and succinctly you communicate your insights and critical arguments will affect your assessment mark	30%	1,2,3,7	28 August  2013
2	Design Project  The design project allows you to use the foundations of the performance design theories, practices and analytical skills acquired during the trimester to realise your own scenographic design for a play text (TBA). The assessment mark will be determined on the design research, artistic merit, and overall presentation.	40%	1,4,7	11 or 15  October 2013
3	Production Participation  Production participation is central to the learning in this course and the assessment mark will reflect your artistic work and personal contribution considering attendance, attentiveness, and professionalism in class and in all production work. You will be expected to work 20 hours outside of class on productions.	30%	1,2, 4, 5,6	Awarded  week of 7  October

## SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the “Assignments and Turnitin” section of Blackboard.

Hard-copy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: 83 Fairlie Terrace. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Remember to fill in your tutor’s name.

## PENALTIES

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.

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. 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.

## MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT AND/OR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

Students are required to purchase a design materials package (NZ \$ 75.00) from Gordon Harris.

Students must also purchase mask-making supplies from the course coordinator (NZ \$40.00).

## SET TEXTS

Charles Mee, *Big Love*

Charles Mee, *Notes towards a Manifesto* (<http://www.charlesmee.org/html/about.html>)

In-Class Handouts

## RECOMMENDED READING

Jane Collins and Andrew Nisbet. *Theatre and Performance Design*. New York, Routledge, 2010

Richard Schechner. *Theatre, Spaces, Environments: Eighteen Projects*. New York, 1975

Julie Taymor. *Playing with Fire*. New York, Harry N. Abrams inc, 1999

Lynn Pecktal. *Designing and Painting for the Theatre*. New York, Harcourt Brace, 1975

## CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

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.

You may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

**Class Rep name and email address for this course:**

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Resolving academic issues:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies  
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 210

**THEA 210 COURSE PROGRAMME**

Wk	CLASS Tuesday 10:00am to 11:50am	CLASS Friday 10:00am to 11:50am	NOTES
1	July 16 Course Intro; The Kernel, The Blind Scribble.	July 19 Discuss, <b>Unity, Contrast, and Topology</b> Handout. <b>Mask design Images/Provocation</b>	<b>Read <i>Unity, Contrast, and Topology</i> by July 19, Read: Charles Mee's Manifesto and <i>Big Love</i> by July 23</b>
2	July 23 Discuss Charles Mee's Manifesto/ <i>Big Love</i> <b>Mask image Presentation</b> Mask workshop #1	July 26 Mask workshop #2	<b>Mask image collections due July 23</b>
3	July 30 <b>204 Pack in/wash</b>	August 2 The DMX/LED Universe Lighting Exercise	<b>204 Pack in July 30/Performance Aug 5</b>
4	August 6 <b>Discuss: <i>Unity, Contrast, and Topology</i></b> Scenic break-down of <i>Big Love</i>	August 9 Studio 77 ft Mini Me Model Model Building Scale Models	<b>See <i>Red</i> at Circa Theatre \$12.00 Tickets</b> <b>July 13 - August 10th</b>
5	August 13 Introduction to Power Tools	August 16 Building flats and platforms	
6	August 20 Sound Design with Tane Upjohn-Beatson	August 23 <i>Big Love</i> Scale Model Workshop	<b>Red Essay Due Aug 28th</b>
	August 26 – September 8 Mid -Trimester Break	August 26 – September 8 Mid -Trimester Break	<b>Masks Due Sept 10</b>
7	Sept 10 <b>Masks Due 204</b> Sound Design /Mask Movement <b>204 Pack in <i>Tartuffe</i></b>	Sept 13 Sound Design /Mask Movement	<b>204 Pack in Sept 10/Performance Sept 16</b>
8	Sept 17 Sound Design with Tane Upjohn-Beatson	Sept 20 Sound Design with Tane Upjohn-Beatson	<b>THEA 304/210 Tech/Dress</b> <b>Sept Sat 21, Sun 22, Mon 22, Tues 24</b>
9	Sept 24 Sound Design with Tane Upjohn-Beatson	Sept 27 <b>Presentation: Lights, Sound and Mask with Tane, Nick and Jim</b>	<b>THEA 304/210 Performances</b> <b>Season Sept 25,26,27,28</b> <b>Packout after show on Sept 28</b>
10	Oct 1 In-Class Design Work with Jim	Oct 4 <b>Discuss: <i>From The Secret of Theatrical Space.</i></b>	Read <i>From The Secret of Theatrical Space</i> Handout by Oct 4th
11	Oct 8 TBA	Oct 11 <b>Design Project Presentation</b> <b>Finished Set Designs for <i>Big Love</i></b>	<b>Design Project Due Oct 11 or 15</b>
12	Oct 15 <b>Design Project Presentation</b> <b>Finished Set Designs for <i>Big Love</i></b>	Oct 18 <b>Debrief Finale</b> <b>Theatre Appreciation Day</b> <b>Theatre and Film BBQ</b>	<b>Theatre Appreciation Day</b> <b>THEA301 Season Oct 15-19</b>

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