

THEA 304 Directing

Trimester 2 2013

15 July to 17 November 2013

30 Points



Mats Ek's production of *Don Juan* for the Stockholm Royal Dramatic Theatre (2000)

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

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

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Monday and Wednesday 10.00am – 12.50pm 93 KP

Performances of all directing projects will occur in **Week 9** of Trimester 2 in 93 KP.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator:	Bronwyn Tweddle	bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz	463 6852	FT77 301
Teaching Staff:	James Davenport	james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz	463 6842	FT77 310
Course Administrator:	Cathy McCullagh	cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz	463 5359	FT83 202

Some classes will be taken by guest directors. All students will be allocated a mentor for their directing project.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class, sent by email, posted on the course noticeboard, level three, 77 FT, and/or posted on Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check the noticeboards, Blackboard and their email. It is also your responsibility to ensure that Bronwyn has your *current* contact details. Bronwyn will endeavour to respond to emails from students within 48 hours. 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

A practical study of fundamentals of theatre directing, with particular emphasis given to script analysis and working with actors.

COURSE CONTENT

During the **class** components of the course, each student will:

- i) explore some introductory approaches to theatre directing
- ii) gain practical experience by directing scenes from selected playtexts
- iii) present to the class their research work on twentieth century directors
- iv) engage with a number of workshops run by Bronwyn, Jim and invited practitioners.

Students should wear comfortable clothing, which allows movement, to all classes. Cell phones are to be turned off during classes.

During the **production** components of the course, each student will

- i) direct a selected playscript, in all aspects from casting to final public performance, over an intensive rehearsal period
- ii) collaborate on production work for their season as a whole (planning & paperwork, organising their actors' contribution to technical management, publicity)
- iii) compile a workbook to document and analyse creative and production work.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. realise a theatre piece from play text to full production
2. analyse their own directing practice
3. collaborate on technical aspects of theatre production
4. examine, contextualise and analyse the history and methodologies of theatre directing

TEACHING FORMAT

The course consists of two practical workshops per week. In addition to this students are expected to rehearse outside of class time leading to their production of a 10 minute directing project. Students will be responsible for booking their own spaces for rehearsals through the Theatre Programme Administrator, Cathy McCullagh.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must complete and submit all assignments.

Due to the intensive nature of the work, a very high level of attendance at classes is expected. Missed classes must be justified by a medical certificate.

WORKLOAD

The university anticipates that you should be able to devote about 300 hours in total to a 30 point course. Therefore expect to spend around 20 hours per week outside of class time in reading, preparation, thinking, writing and rehearsal. However, the intensive practical nature of this course means that there will be periods during production work (in particular, the weeks just prior to week 9 performance season) when this will be concentrated. **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. NO THEATRE WORK OUTSIDE OF YOUR THEATRE COURSES MAY BE TAKEN ON WITHOUT EXPLICIT WRITTEN PERMISSION BY THE COURSE CO-ORDINATOR BEFOREHAND.**

In addition, the ethos of this course will be co-operative and collaborative – a small production company operating over three months. For much of the time, each individual will be reliant on group support, and will need to offer the same support and co-operation to others, to ensure the success of all the creative objectives.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Directing Project: 10 minute play	30%	1, 2	Completed by pack-out week 9
2	Production work: small production tasks as required	20%	3	Completed by pack-out week 9
3	Director's workbook: Documentation and analysis of your directing project	30%	2, 4	Workbook instalments due: 23 August & 4 October
4	Study presentation on a major theatre director: 20 minute presentation plus 10 minutes Q & A time	20%	4	In class on: 5, 12 or 19 August

All work is individually assessed. Specific marking criteria for each assessment task are included in the detailed task briefs (given out in the first class and posted on Blackboard). **All assessment will be internal. There is no final examination.**

Relationship between assessment and learning objectives

The **directing project** develops your skills in realising a theatre piece from play text to full production. This process includes the development of your creative imagination, plus practical skills in script analysis, running rehearsals, working with design and directing actors. The keeping of a **director's workbook** enables this process to be the subject of reflection and analysis. The workbook is also designed to develop good habits in documenting your work and developing your own philosophy as a theatre artist.

The **study presentation on a major theatre director** develops understanding of the history and methodologies of directing. **Production work** develops skills in technical theatre production and the ability to work collaboratively.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Scans of workbooks may be submitted directly to Bronwyn by email or hard copies of workbooks 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. Handouts to accompany the in-class presentation must be brought to the class in which the presentation is scheduled.

Feedback on the first workbook installment will be provided within 2 weeks, so that it can be actioned for the final workbook submission. Feedback on in-class presentations will be returned within 2 weeks of the

final presentation. Feedback on production work will be given by the end of the trimester, after consultation with mentors and staff involved with the course.

Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

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. Only Bronwyn may grant an extension.

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT AND/OR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

Students should wear clothing to class in which they can move freely. Students who prefer to present a hard-copy workbook will need to buy a visual diary for this purpose (minimum size A4).

SET TEXTS

Shepherd, Simon. *Direction: Readings in Theatre Practice*. Basingstoke & New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012.

Available from vicbooks, The Hub, Kelburn Parade. You can order your textbook online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

For other recommended reading, see the bibliography on Blackboard.

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.

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

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 304

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	15 July	Introduction/History & Role of the Director
	17 July	Script Analysis

Week 2	22 July	Research & Conceptualisation
	24 July	Auditions & Casting

Week 3	29 July	Production planning
	31 July	Directing exercises

Week 4	5 August	DIRECTOR PRESENTATIONS [1, 2, 3, 4]
	7 August	Directing exercises

Week 5	12 August	DIRECTOR PRESENTATIONS [5, 6, 7, 8]
	14 August	Lighting & Sound Design [JDav]

Week 6	19 August	DIRECTOR PRESENTATIONS [9, 10, 11, 12]
	21 August	Theatre Design [JDav] & Production Problem-Solving

FRIDAY 23 AUGUST, 4PM: FIRST INSTALMENT OF DIRECTOR'S WORKBOOK DUE

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

Week 7	9 September	Directing exercises
	11 September	Directing exercises

Week 8	16 September	Preparing actors for performances/Director's role after opening
	18 September	Managing Tech & Performance Processes [JDav]

Week 9	23 September	Guest Director
	25 September	Guest Director

PERFORMANCES WEDNESDAY 25 – SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Week 10	30 September	Production Debrief [Season A]
	2 October	Production Debrief [Season B]

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER, 4PM: FINAL INSTALMENT OF DIRECTOR'S WORKBOOK DUE

Week 11	7 October	Directing methodologies & exercises
	9 October	Directing methodologies & exercises

Week 12	14 October	Directing methodologies & exercises
	16 October	Conclusions