

THEA 203: Space, Light and the Body

Trimester 1 2015

2 March to 1 July 2015

20 Points



I am (2014) Lemi Ponifasio/Mau. Image: <http://nzatedinburgh.com/show/i-am>

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-Trimester break: 3 to 19 April 2015

Last assessment item due: 15 June 2015

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Mondays and Tuesdays 14.10pm – 15.00pm FT77 306

Workshops

Monday 3pm – 6pm

Tuesday 10am – 1pm

Workshops will be held in Studio 77 and 93KP

(see Course Programme for details)

CRUCIAL: WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Groups A & B on Saturday 21 March and Saturday 2 May, 9am-5pm

Groups C & D on Sunday 22 March and Sunday 3 May, 9am-5pm

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator:	Nicola Hyland	nicola.hyland@vuw.ac.nz	463 6826	FT77 302
Teaching Staff:	James Davenport	james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz	463 6842	FT77 310
	Kerryn Palmer	kerryn.palmer@vuw.ac.nz	463 6824	FT83 311
Programme Administrator:	Cathy McCullagh	cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz	463 5359	FT83 202

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

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be announced in class, or posted on Blackboard and the course notice board located at 77FT, Level 3. Considerable time, additional to that formally timetabled, will be spent on group and class production projects, including TWO day-long workshops taking place over TWO weekends.

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 introduction to the basic elements of theatrical performance, concentrating on space, performer, theatre technology, and devised performance.

COURSE CONTENT

The teaching material will introduce student to strategies and techniques in which to perceive theatrical performance in the contemporary context. The course offers opportunities for practical and theoretical

engagement with performance; enabling students to better understand performance discourses through practical work, while also offering skills to reflect on their practice in a theoretical way. The teaching material is framed around six inter-connected elements: **Theatre Technology, Performance Studies, Devising, Dramaturgy, Acting** and **Cross-Cultural Performance**. Practical exploration of these elements occurs in workshops, initially through tableau, chorus, improvisation, and structured play, leading towards the operation of the technical space of theatre. Each student will collaborate in the scoring/performing of a short original group piece, as well as collaborating in simple lighting design and operation for a short script. Towards the end of the course, students will perform a devised solo piece during the regular workshop time on 25 May and 26 May.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. adapt, create, evaluate, and express complex ideas using space, light, text and bodies
2. distinguish, critique and synthesise a variety of dramatic and theatrical strategies
3. explore, through practice and analyses, the relationship between performance studies discourse and devised performance
4. identify the collaborative and ethical dimensions of creative and critical inquiry in performance
5. contribute effectively to the development and maintenance of a productive group dynamic
6. explore ways theatre is used as a vessel for pursuing personal objectives, creating new ideas and contributing to society.

TEACHING FORMAT

The teaching is a mix of lecture/demonstrations, workshops and rehearsal/productions.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

- submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- attend class workshops, including the weekend workshops, plus all rehearsals and performances for which you are called, as arranged with the Course Coordinator and/or your workshop leader (subject to exceptional circumstances).

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20-point course is 200 hours over the trimester or 13 hours per teaching week.

Lectures: 2 hours per week

Workshops: 2-3 hours per week

Two compulsory weekend workshops: 12 hours in total

Total hours contact hours for course: 60 hours

Reading: 4 hours

Rehearsal: 4 hours

Workbook keeping: 3 hours

Total outside hours for course: 132 hours

It is always difficult to precisely specify the workload of courses which have a high practical and creative content. The university anticipates that you should be able to devote about 17 hours per week to a 20 point course. Therefore you should probably expect to spend on average about 13 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, preparation, thinking, writing and rehearsal. 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 when rehearsing for the weekend workshops in Weeks 3 and 6, and for the solo performances in Week 11. 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.

In practical production work, it is vitally important that students support each other, in a collective and collaborative sense. Please **always** be prompt at classes and rehearsals, and **always** take full responsibility for tasks allotted to you, or for which you volunteer.

Please Note: NO THEATRE WORK OUTSIDE OF YOUR THEATRE COURSES SHOULD BE TAKEN ON WITHOUT DISCUSSION WITH THE COURSE CO-ORDINATOR BEFOREHAND.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Lighting Test 30 mins (Approx 12 hours, including 9 hours workshop)	10%	1, 2,5	In class: Either 16/17 March or 20/21 April
2 Research Project (Approx 20 hours, including 10 hours reading and lecture attendance)	25%	2,3,6	Wednesday 22 April, 12pm
3 Solo Performance 5 mins (Approx 40 hours, including 20 hours workshop)	35%	1,2,3,4,6	In class: Either 25 or 26 May
4 Portfolio 3000 words (Approx 60 hours, including lecture attendance and reading)	30%	1,2, 3,6	Monday 15 June, 12pm

Much of the work in this course happens on our feet, away from computers. You should keep a workbook with you at all times in which to record your impressions, thoughts, arguments - not to mention fleeting creative brainwaves. Workbooks will **not** be assessed but **will** help you prepare for the portfolio and solo performance assessment discussed below.

More detailed hand-outs on each of the following assignments, together with marking criteria, will be given in class. Each of the assessment tasks is designed to develop your skills in and knowledge of performance processes and theories covered in the lectures and workshops:

- **Lighting Test (20 minutes):** This assessment examines student's understanding of basic lighting terms and techniques gained in the practical lighting workshops. The test will be conducted in-class during the final lighting class. **Marking Criteria:** ability to recognise key terms, processes and safe practices of lighting technology
- **Research Project (1000 words):** This assessment engages with the idea of **research** as a critical element of devised performance. Students will conduct independent research on a distinct performance form of their choice. The aim of the project is to create a resource for use in practical work; to integrate elements of the chosen performance form into the autobiographical **solo performance**. **Marking Criteria:** depth of research, creativity of presentation and ideas, effectiveness as a dramaturgical resource and originality/innovation
- **Solo Performance (5 minutes):** This assessment develops skills in dramaturgy, basic scenography and performance; exploring student development as a creative artist through the presentation of a short original solo performance work. **Marking Criteria:** artistic shaping of the piece, imaginative use of space, light and design elements, level of rehearsal, overall aesthetic impact, utilisation of elements in creative report
- **Portfolio (3000 words):** This assessment is designed to consolidate creative and critical thinking and responses to the relationship between theory and practice throughout the course. The portfolio maps students' engagement with the themes in readings, lectures and workshops across the course and how these contribute to the creative process of devising the group performances and solo works. It also includes a **Score (1000 words)** which develops skills in dramaturgical processes in providing a record of / guide to the solo performance. **Marking Criteria:** rigorous creative and analytical discussion, drawing connections between theory and practice

Students will be required to work in small groups for the devising and lighting blocks that culminate in the weekend workshops in week 3 and 6. Devising groups are expected to spend 5-10 hours outside of class time devising and rehearsing their pieces. Rehearsal times must be organised by the group members and rehearsal spaces booked via email with the Theatre Programme Administrator in 83FT Room 202. Please

Note, there is no group assessment in the course, each student will be assessed on their analysis of the group work in their workbooks.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin the online plagiarism prevention tool.

Hardcopy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: **83 Fairlie Terrace**. Attach an assignment cover sheet found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your tutor in tutorials or during their office hours. 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.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Wednesday 1 July 2015.**

Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Word penalties may apply for 10% over or below word limit. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

Weekly reading material for this course will be made available on the THEA 203 Blackboard site.

RECOMMENDED READING

Johnston, Chris. 2007. *House of Games: Making Theatre from Everyday Life*. London: Nick Hern Books

Pilbrow, Richard. 2000. *Stage Lighting Design: The Art, the Craft, the Life*. London: Nick Hern Books

Schechner, Richard. 2013. *Performance Studies: An Introduction*. 3rd Edition. New York: Routledge

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course. 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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 203

- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1
Monday 2 March **Introduction**
Tuesday 3 March **What is Performance?**

Week 2
Monday 9 March **Devised Performance: Introduction**
Tuesday 10 March **What is Devising?**

Week 3
Monday 16 March **Theatre Technology Workshop**
Tuesday 17 March **Devising Workshop (Plus Showing of Pieces)**
(1st Block) Lighting Tests in Workshop Class 16/17 March

Week 4
Monday 23 March **Performance Studies: Play**
Tuesday 24 March **Performance Studies: Ritual**

Week 5
Monday 31 March **The Body: The Actor's Presence**
Tuesday 1 April **The Body: Acting Collaboratively**

Easter/Mid Trimester Break: Friday 3 to Sunday 19 April 2015

Week 6
Monday 20 April **The Body: Directing for Devising**
Tuesday 21 April **Theatre Technology: Scenography for Devised Performance**
Research Project Due Friday 24 April, 12 pm
(2nd Block) Lighting Tests in Workshop Class 27/28 April

Week 7
Monday 27 April **ANZAC DAY – No Lecture**
Tuesday 28 April **The Body: Improvisation Workshop**
(Plus Showing of Pieces)

Week 8
Monday 5 May **What is Dramaturgy?**
Tuesday 6 May **Dramaturgy: Texts**

Week 9
Monday 11 May **Dramaturgy: Text Battle**
Tuesday 12 May **Performing Cultures: Global Exchanges**

Week 10
Monday 18 May **Performing Cultures: Devising for Social Change**

Tuesday 19 May **Performing Cultures: Creative Case Histories**

Week 11 Monday 25 May **No Class – Preparation for Solos**

Tuesday 26 May **Debrief**

Week 12 Monday 1 June **No Class: Queen’s Birthday**

Tuesday 2 June **Who wants to be a Theatre Maker?**

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Week 1 Monday 2 March 3 – 6pm Devising (A)

3 – 6pm Lighting (B)

Tuesday 3 March 10-1 pm Devising (C)

10-1 pm Lighting (D)

Week 2 Monday 9 March 3 – 6pm Devising (A)

3 – 6pm Lighting (B)

Tuesday 10 March 10-1 pm Devising (C)

10-1 pm Lighting (D)

Week 3 Monday 16 March 3 – 6 pm Devising A

3 – 6 pm Lighting B

Tuesday 17 March 10-1 pm Devising C

10-1 pm Lighting DD

Saturday 22 March or Sunday 23 March

Weekend Workshop #1: 9 am- 5pm

Week 4 Monday 23 March 3 – 6pm Devising B

3 – 6pm Lighting A

Tuesday 24 March 10-1 pm Devising D

10-1 pm Lighting C

Week 5 Monday 30 March 3 – 6 pm Devising B

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3 – 6pm Lighting A

Tuesday 31 March 10-1 pm Devising D

10-1 pm Lighting C

Week 6
Monday 20 April 3 – 6 pm Devising B
3 – 6 pm Lighting A
Tuesday 21 April 10-1pm Devising D
10-1 pm Lighting C

Week 7 No workshops

Saturday 2 May or Sunday 3 May

Weekend Workshop #2: 9 am- 5pm

Week 8
Monday 4 May 3 – 6pm Solo Performance #1 A
3 – 6pm Solo Performance #1 B
Tuesday 5 May 10-1 pm Solo Performance # 1 C
10-1 pm Solo Performance #1 D

Week 9
Monday 11 May 3 – 6 pm Solo Performance #2 A
3 – 6 pm Solo Performance #2B
Tuesday 12 May 10-1 pm Solo Performance #2 C
10-1 pm Solo Performance #2 D

Week 10
Monday 18 May 3 – 6 pm Solo Performance #3 A
3 – 6 pm Solo Performance #3 B
Tuesday 19 May 10-1 pm Solo Performance #3 C
10-1 pm Solo Performance #3 D

Week 11
Monday 25 May 3 – 6pm **Solo Performance Presentation A**
3 – 6pm **Solo Performance Presentation B**
Tuesday 26 May 10-1 pm **Solo Performance Presentation C**
10-1 pm **Solo Performance Presentation D**