

THEA 403: Drama and Theatre in Aotearoa New Zealand

Trimester 1 2015

2 March to 1 July 2015

30 Points



Awahi Tapu (Albert Belz) 2010 production dir. Leo Gene Peters. Image: <http://www.takirua.co.nz>

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

Mondays 10.00am – 12.50pm FT77 208

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Nicola Hyland nicola.hyland@vuw.ac.nz 463 6826 FT77 302

Office Hours: By appointment

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information or changes will be announced in class and/or posted on the course notice board at FT77, Level 3, and/or posted on Blackboard.

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 the theatre of Aotearoa New Zealand by studying a range of play-scripts from the colonial era to the present day, through the lens of post-colonial theory. Topics include the evolution of nationalist drama, the growth of professional theatre and playwriting, the development of Māori and Pasifika theatre, and contemporary trends towards inter-cultural and devised theatre.

COURSE CONTENT

The course will offer selected topics in the theatre of Aotearoa New Zealand. A range of plays will be studied in relation to historical and contemporary theatre conventions, as well as from the point of view of a variety of critical approaches including colonial, nationalist, post-colonial, and feminist. Attention will be paid to Māori theatrical and paratheatrical forms and to contemporary developments in hybrid performance and cross-cultural theatre. In this course, students will each present a creative, hypothetical 'pitch' to re-stage a New Zealand theatre production. Students will also be introduced to the concept of practice-as-research and given an opportunity to develop these skills in presenting and responding to a short performance project. All students should prepare for each class by reading the relevant play and any critical readings set for that session.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. distinguish, critique and synthesise a variety of genres and styles in the drama and theatre in Aotearoa New Zealand

2. investigate and explain the social functions, cultural politics, aesthetic elements and historical contexts of New Zealand drama and theatre
3. recognise the influence of European, indigenous and diasporic performance modes on the development of New Zealand drama and theatre
4. create, design and produce a short live performance of New Zealand theatre
5. practise a range of creative and critical approaches to inquiry and scholarship, significantly practice-as-research methodologies

TEACHING FORMAT

This course will be delivered through weekly 3-hour seminars, involving discussion, viewings, group work and creative presentations.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

- submit or present the essays and assignments, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- attend a minimum of 10 seminars.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Presentation Seminar / 'Pitch' (40 - 50 minute presentation and discussion) (Approx 20 hours, including course reading and lecture attendance)	25%	1,2,3,5	Presented in class, dates to be arranged
2	Comparative Essay (3,000 words) (Approx 50 hours, including course reading and lecture attendance)	35%	1,2,3	Friday 8 May, 12pm
3	Practice-Based Performance Project (10 minute performance during Week 12 (20%) plus written report 1,000 words (15%) plus micro-seminar (5%)) (Approx 100 hours, including course reading and lecture attendance)	40%	1,4,5	Performance: Wednesday 3 June, 10 am Report: Monday 15 June, 12pm

All assessment in this course is internal.

Further details on these assignments and marking criteria will be available early in the course.

Relationship between Assessment and Graduate objectives

All assessment has the twofold objective of assessing students' progress in the course and of providing feedback to assist students to achieve the course objectives. Assignments will require students to demonstrate a **specialised understanding** of the field of New Zealand theatre and drama, along with more general expertise in **critical thinking** through analysing content and concepts covered in the course. In addition, the written, oral and performance assessments require students to make original connections between particular, concrete works of dramatic art and general, abstract critical theory, which involves **creative thinking**. The flexibility and creative licence of the performative assessments challenges students to **demonstrate intellectual autonomy through independence of thought** while also showing **openness to ideas** within group activities and general discussions. Both the written and oral assignments, moreover, provide opportunities to practice and develop advanced skills in **communicating complex ideas effectively and accurately**, which is generally valuable and vital for professional success. This course acknowledges the significance of Te Tiriti o Te Waitangi and is committed to encouraging and maintaining **intellectual integrity** and promoting excellent scholarly **ethics**.

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

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.

Electronic assignments are submitted as a MS Word file through Blackboard. How to name your file and step-by-step instructions can be found on Blackboard in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section.

Your marked assignment will be found on Blackboard in the same section.

For Honours assignments

Each assignment is submitted in two formats:

- A hardcopy in the drop slot outside the administration office: 83 Fairlie Terrace. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form to your assignment, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to theatre@vuw.ac.nz

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your supervisor. 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. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

THEA 403 Student Notes

Belz, Albert. *Awhi Tapu*. Playpress, 2006

Fuemana, Dianna. *Two Plays: Falemalama and The Packer*. Playmarket, 2008

Kent, Eli Kent. *The Intricate Art of Actually Caring*. Playmarket, 2012

Leitch, George. *Land of the Moa*. VUP, 1990

McGee, Greg. *Foreskin's Lament*. VUP, 1981

Mason, Bruce. *Awatea*. VUP, 1978*

Randerson, Jo and Trouble. *Two Plays: The Lead Wait and The Unforgiven Harvest*. Playmarket, 2010

Rajan, Jacob and Justin Lewis. *Indian Ink: Krishnan's Dairy, The Candlestickmaker, The Pickle King*. VUP, 2005

O'Donnell, David (ed.). *No.8 Wire: 8 Plays 8 Decades*. Playmarket, 2011

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.

*No longer in print, copies available from course coordinator.

RECOMMENDED READING

Please find a list of recommended reading materials for this course included in student notes of this course

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

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 403

- 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>
- 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

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THEA 403 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 02/03 **Kia ora!** In which we are introduced to THEA 403

Week 2 09/03 The Colonial Spectacle: *The Land of the Moa*

Week 3 16/03 No.8 Wire New Zealanders: *The Willing Horse and Rabbits*

Week 4 23/03 Nation and Alienation: *Awatea*

Week 5 30/03 Of Myth and Men: *Foreskin's Lament*

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

Week 6 20/04 Ladies, a plate: *Indiscretions/The Unforgiven Harvest*

PAR Project micro-seminars

Week 7 27/04 **Anzac Day Holiday: No classes**

Week 8 04/05 Tangata Whenua Whakaari: *Awhi Tapu*

Essay Due 08/05 at 12pm

Week 9 11/05 Pasifika Voices: *The Packer*

Week 10 18/05 Changing Cultural Landscapes: *Krishnan's Dairy/Seeyd*

Week 11 25/05 Theatre Beyond the 00's: *The Intricate Art of Actually Caring*

Week 12 **Queen's
Birthday
(No
Classes)**

PAR reports due

15/06 at 12pm