

# THEA 113: Playing for Real (Acting and Performance Skills)

**Trimester 2 2015**

13 July to 15 November 2015

**20 Points**



Scene photo from Alvis Hermanis' production of *Black Milk* (2012) [Source: Belgian theatre brochure]

## IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last assessment item due: 12 noon, 27 October 2015

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Wednesday and Thursday                      3.10 – 4.00pm                      HMLT 104

### Workshops: one two-hour workshop per week

Workshops begin in WEEK 2. Please register for workshops via the THEA 113 site on Blackboard: go to “Workshop Sign Up” and then follow the instructions under the “myAllocator Log In” link. Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on myAllocator, Blackboard and on the noticeboard outside the administration office, 83 Fairlie Terrace.

## NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

**Course Coordinator:** Bronwyn Tweddle      [bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz)      463 6852      FT77 301

Office Hours by arrangement

**Lecturer:**                      Lori Leigh                      [lori.leigh@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:lori.leigh@vuw.ac.nz)                      463 6712                      FT77 304

**Admin Tutor:**                      Sally Richards                      [sally.richards@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sally.richards@vuw.ac.nz)

**Māori and Pasifika Support Tutor:** Bridget Reweti

Email:                      [mpsupporttutor@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:mpsupporttutor@vuw.ac.nz)

Phone:                      463 9599 or 027 563 7038

Room:                      von Zedlitz vZ807

Office Hours:                      Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 11am-5pm

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information will be announced in class and 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 introduces key performance skills which provide foundations for various acting methods, and transfer to other contexts, such as public-speaking. Skills developed include: vocal technique, text analysis and delivery, openness to fellow players and ensemble, working an audience, impulse and improvisation, working with props, costumes and staging configurations.

## **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Develop foundational performance skills, which are transferable across varied performance techniques and contexts
2. Feedback to fellow students in a constructive and concrete manner, which can be applied to enhance performance work
3. Assess their own performance work and reflect on strategies for improvement
4. Articulate the reasoning behind specific performance choices and assess the appropriateness of these choices in terms of style, context and audience
5. Develop collaboration skills

## **TEACHING FORMAT**

The course will consist of a combination of lectures and group workshops (2 hours per workshop). The lectures will introduce key acting & performance concepts, and provide context for the skills to be worked that week by exploring how they are applicable across different acting methods. The workshops will provide practical exploration of the performance skills in large group, partner work and individual performance exercises. Students will apply skills learned and practice assessing the effectiveness of specific choices in performance. 100% internal assessment

## **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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

- submit the assignments, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- attend at least 9 out of 11 workshops

as both of these things are necessary in order to demonstrate the achievement of all CLOS in the course.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of these mandatory course requirements because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

## **WORKLOAD**

The expected workload for a 20-point course is 200 hours over the trimester 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, preparation, thinking, rehearsal and assignment writing. It is important to note there is considerable variation between students in terms of learning styles, reading speed etc. Some students

can pass (though not necessarily well) on less, and some of you will find you need or want to do more. You will also need to spend additional rehearsal time leading up to your monologue and duologue scene. Similarly, the suggested time for preparation of each assessment item listed below is only a very rough estimate. You should consider your past academic working process and begin to develop a realistic personal assessment of the preparation time needed for your university work.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Short performance of a monologue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance 1-2 minutes in length;</li> <li>• Written reflection 1000 words max.</li> <li>• Approx. 38 hours of work in total</li> </ul>	25%	1, 3, 4	a) Performance in week 11 during workshop time b) Reflection due 12 noon, 16 October
2	Short performance of a duologue scene with a partner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance 3 - 4 minutes in length;</li> <li>• Written reflection 1000 words max.</li> <li>• Approx. 38 hours of work</li> </ul> NB: students are graded individually on this assignment	25%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	a) Performance in week 7 during workshop time b) Reflection due 2 weeks later
3	10 x short class analyses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 words each; total 2000 words;</li> <li>• Approx. 76 hours of work</li> </ul> Analyses will be structured in a variety of ways, for example: paperwork on script analysis, written analysis of an in-class exercise, verbal or written critique of monologue or duologue scenes etc.	50%	2, 3, 4	Due before your workshop each week, starting week 3 Last one due, 12 noon, 27 October

Detailed assessment instructions for each assignment, which include marking criteria, will be on Blackboard.

## 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.

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.

## 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 Friday 13 November 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.

## MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT AND/OR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

Students are required to wear comfortable clothing for movement work to workshops.

## SET TEXTS

1. THEA 113 Student Notes
2. *SEFTMS Guidelines for Students in THEA 113* (Blackboard under 'Course Resources').

You can order student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz).

## RECOMMENDED READING

Recommendations for additional reading related to the course will be placed on Blackboard.

## 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

As this is the first time THEA 113 has been offered, there has not been student feedback on the course yet. 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/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/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://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](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

### THEA 113 COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	15 Jul	Lecture: Introduction: Crucial skills of an actor/What is useful feedback?
	16 Jul	Lecture: The importance of Ensemble      NB: No workshops this week
Week 2	22 Jul	Lecture: The place of improvisation historically [LL]
	23 Jul	Lecture: Principles of improvisation [LL]
		Workshop topic: Ensemble skills
Week 3	29 Jul	Lecture: Genre & Style in playtexts
	30 Jul	Lecture: Systems of text analysis
		Workshop topic: Improv & impulse
Week 4	5 Aug	Lecture: Vocal style conventions over the centuries
	6 Aug	Lecture: Principles of vocal work
		Workshop topic: Script analysis
Week 5	12 Aug	Lecture: Actor's research – Traditional methods
	13 Aug	Lecture: Actor's research – Practice as research
		Workshop topic: Vocal technique/text delivery skills
Week 6	19 Aug	Lecture: Physical style conventions/movement techniques
	20 Aug	Lecture: Principles of movement work
		Workshop topic: Physical expressivity training
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b> Monday 24 August to Sunday 6 September 2015		
Week 7	9 Sept	Lecture: Conventions of actor audience relationships over the centuries
	10 Sept	Lecture: Principles of actor/audience relationships ( <i>complicité</i> )
		Workshop topic: <b>DUO SCENE PRESENTATIONS</b>
Week 8	16 Sept	Lecture: Theatre spaces: stage types & their social functions
	17 Sept	Lecture: Principles of working different stage spaces
		Workshop topic: Working with an audience

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Week 9	23 Sept	Lecture: History of solo performance [SR]
	24 Sept	Lecture: Principles for monologues & solo performance [SR]  Workshop topic: Working different theatre spaces
Week 10	30 Sept	Lecture: Conventions of costume over the centuries
	1 Oct	Lecture: Principles of working with costume  Workshop topic: Working with props, set & costume
Week 11	7 Oct	Lecture: Technical developments & their impact on acting practice
	8 Oct	Lecture: Principles for working with technical elements  Workshop topic: <b>MONOLOGUE PRESENTATIONS</b>
Week 12	14 Oct	Lecture: Overview of actor training systems
	15 Oct	Lecture: Conclusions  Workshop topic: Working with tech – light & sound