

THEA 406 Special Topic: Advanced Directing

Trimester 1 + 2 2016

29 February to 14 October 2016

30 Points



Les Naufragés du Fol Espoir (Aurores). Arianne Mnouchkine and Théâtre du Soleil.

<https://edinburghfestival.list.co.uk/article/43294-theatre-du-soleils-epic-jules-verne-inspired-2012-edinburgh-festival-show/>

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 29 February to 14 October 2016

Easter break: 24 to 30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Mid-year break: 6 June to 8 July 2016

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 22 August- 2 September 2016

Last assessment item due: 31 October 2016

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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

Tri 1:	Thursdays	12 noon – 3pm	KP93
Tri 2:	Fridays	12 noon – 3pm	FT83 102

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator:	Kerryn Palmer	kerryn.palmer@vuw.ac.nz	463 6824	FT83 311
Office Hours: By appointment				
Course Administrator:	Cathy McCullagh	cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz	463 5359	FT83 202

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class, sent by email, and/or posted on Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check Blackboard and email. It is also your responsibility to ensure that Kerryn has your *current* contact details. 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. Frequent access to communication is essential in this course.

PRESCRIPTION

This course explores a variety of approaches to theatre directing through practical workshops and theoretical study of directing methodologies. The emphasis is on leading a creative process from conception to performance through collaboration with actors, designers and technicians. Each student will direct a short play for public performance.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Collaborate effectively with others as the director of theatrical performance;
2. Discuss and critique the aesthetic, social and political dimensions of live performance from the perspective of the director;
3. Manage all aspects of directing scripted theatre performances, including scene analysis, casting, administration of rehearsals, and building a team of collaborators;
4. Understand the creative processes and vocabularies of actors, designers and other collaborators, in order to communicate effectively with them; and

5. Reflect critically on the effectiveness of their working methods, aesthetic goals and creative strategies and the quality of their work.

TEACHING FORMAT

The course will be delivered in seminars and practical workshops.

WORKLOAD

It is always difficult to specify precisely the workload of courses which have a high practical and creative content. The expected workload for a 30 point course at Honours level is 300 hours over the year or 10 hours per teaching week. This means you should expect to spend an average of about 7 hours per week (apart from the 3 hours of scheduled class/rehearsal time) in reading, preparation, thinking, writing and rehearsal. The “estimated preparation hours” for assignments listed in the box below are merely a rule of thumb – especially as the projects are interlinked. Some class blocks will be more intensive than others and students should take care to prepare early for these intense periods, especially where they overlap with due dates for other Honours courses.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
<p>1 Production workbook/portfolio: evidence of research and preparation, artefacts of the process etc.</p> <p>This will go alongside each directing project.</p> <p>[3 workbook instalments: word count variable, depending on production documentation]</p> <p>Estimated total preparation hours = 76</p> <p>Final Workbook Due</p>	30	2, 4, 5	<p>Instalment 1: 1 April</p> <p>Instalment 2: 6 May</p> <p>Instalment 3 9 Sept</p> <p>22nd October</p>
<p>2 Directing projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 short performances of theatre <p>1 Devised Piece (Approx. 5 minutes)</p> <p>1 Solo/Co-Directed 204 Piece (5-10 minutes)</p> <p>1 Individually- directed piece. Either devised or Text – based (No longer than 10 minutes.)</p>	40	1, 2, 3, 4	<p>Project presentations:</p> <p>15 April</p> <p>30 May</p> <p>7 October</p> <p>Critiques due:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written critique of each project: max. 1000 words each <p>Estimated total preparation hours = 100</p>			<p>22 April</p> <p>15 July</p> <p>22 Oct</p>
3	<p>Collaborative production role/in-class directing exercises</p> <p>Estimated total preparation hours = 76</p>	30	1, 2, 4, 5	Ongoing

Detailed marking criteria are outlined in specific assignment briefs [given out in class/on Blackboard]

Group Work

As with most practical and production orientated courses there is a considerable sharing of working time, through collaboration, both in class and in relation to production and performance. Assessment will be in relation to individual assignments, but collaborative skills will contribute to these assessments.

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. Each assignment should be submitted as an MS Word file to Kerryn via email: kerryn.palmer@vuw.ac.nz and cc'd to theatre@vuw.ac.nz. 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 feedback will be handed back or emailed to you by Kerryn. 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. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after**

Friday 11 November 2016

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 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 or a folder for this purpose (minimum size A4). Students should also budget for printing/photocopying of short scripts each week.

SET TEXTS

There are no set texts or student notes to buy for THEA 406. Instead, a selection of key readings will be made available on the 406 Blackboard site, as well as recommendations on topics specific to the plays selected by the students.

RECOMMENDED READING

Practical advice on directing:

- Mitchell, Katie. *The Director's Craft – A Handbook for the Theatre*. London: Routledge, 2008.

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

Previous student feedback was taken into account in adjusting the course to fit with our updated curriculum. Including slight changes in assessment and in delivery of classes leading up to projects.

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>
- 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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Week 1	Fri March 4	Introduction Workshop. The rise of the director.
Week 2	Fri Mar 11	Devising/Storytelling Workshop/Directing For Devising
Week 3	Fri Mar 18	Devising/Storytelling Workshop part 2. Follow up - where to next?
Week 4	No Fri Class	Easter Break – Workbook #1 Assessment Set
Week 5	Fri Apr 1	Rehearsal Directing piece #1
Week 6	Fri Apr 8	Rehearsal of Directing piece #1
Week 7	Fri Apr 15	Presentation of Directing piece #1
Week 8	Fri Apr 22	Directing Text: Classic vs Modern. Script Analysis Preparation/Research: Before the rehearsal room.
Mid Term	Break	Workbook #2 Assessment Set
Week 9	Fri 6 May	Interpreting the Action/Character/Voice/Movement Casting/Auditioning/working with production team/Co-directing
Week 10	Fri 13 May	Rehearsal for directing project 2
Week 11	Fri 20 May	Rehearsal for directing project 2
Week 12	Fri 27 May	Rehearsal for directing project 2
Week 13	Fri 3 June	Presentation directing project # 2
Mid-Year Break:		
Week 14	Fri 15 July	Choosing a play, Devising vs Text -based
Week 15	Fri 22 July	Director Methodologies
Week 16	Fri 29 July	Beginning rehearsals

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Week 17	Fri 5 Aug	Mid-rehearsals
Week 18	Fri 12 Aug	Production Week -Practice running a technical rehearsal
Week 19	Fri 19 Aug	Production Week -Practice running a technical rehearsal part 2 Post Production/Choosing your piece

Workbook #3 Assessment Set

Mid-Trimester Break: Monday 22 August to Sunday 4 September 2016

Week 20	Fri 9 Sept	Rehearsal for directing project 3 : Preparation
Week 21	Fri 16 Sept	Rehearsal for directing project 3 practice and analysis
Week 22	Fri 23 Sept	Rehearsal for directing project 3
Week 23	Fri 30 Oct	Rehearsal for directing project 3
Week 24	Fri 7 Oct	Directing Project 3 Presentations
Week 25	Fri 14 Oct	Conclusions