

THEA 204 Classic Theatre Workshop

Trimester 2 2014

14 July to 16 November 2014

20 Points



Prince Henry (Hal), played by Georges Bigot, in Ariane Mnouchkine's 1984 production of *Henry 4*.

[Source: Féral, Josette (Ed.), *Ariane Mnouchkine & das Théâtre du Soleil*. Berlin: Alexander Verlag, 2003.]

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-Trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Last assessment item due: 28 October 2014

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 Wednesdays 2.10pm – 3.00pm Room 306, FT 77

Workshops (you will be assigned to ONE of the following four groups, with additional rehearsals tbc)

Monday 3.10-5.00pm (Group W) Locations TBC

OR 5.10-7.00pm (Group X)

OR Tuesday 3.10-5.00pm (Group Y)

OR 5.10-7.00pm (Group Z)

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator:

Bronwyn Tweddle (BT) bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz 463 6852 Room 301, FT77

Additional Lecturing:

James McKinnon (JMCK) james.mckinnon@vuw.ac.nz 463 6115 Room 307, FT77

Admin Tutor:

Jane Yonge jane.yonge@vuw.ac.nz

Workshops: will be directed by academic staff, MTA students, and guest directors.

Mentoring for design and technical elements:

James Davenport james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz 463-6842 Room 310, FT77

Administration:

Cathy McCullagh cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz 463-5359 Room 202, FT83

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any alterations or additional information will be announced in lectures, on Blackboard and on the class notice board on the top floor of 77FT. It is the student's responsibility to arrive punctually to class and to regularly check Blackboard and notice boards, to ensure all new information is received. Also ensure your correct email address is listed on Student Records, and check your email regularly.

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 critical and practical study of the dynamics of performing plays from major periods of Western theatre, from the ancient Greeks to the 19th century (including Greek, Renaissance and Neoclassical drama). Investigation of historical conditions of performance form the basis for workshop exploration and presentation of scenes from selected plays.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. understand, contextualise and apply the principal features of theatrical style, convention, and place in society of three periods of Western theatre history;
2. apply their knowledge of the dramaturgy and performance possibilities of selected plays practically in performance;
3. further develop skills in co-operative creative work through rehearsal and performance of scenes and perform a variety of creative roles involved in theatre production;
4. assess their learning and the application of theatre skills across performance styles.

TEACHING FORMAT

THEA 204 consists of two lectures per week on historical background and textual analysis of the plays studied. There is also a two-hour practical workshop per week on scenes in groups of about 15. Students will also be **required** to attend rehearsals (approx. 15 total hours per 4-week module) after hours.

Workshops/rehearsals begin in the first week of classes. Students are expected to attend all workshops and lectures, and rehearsals where called by their director. Students will contribute to a group wiki through Blackboard as part of their workshop contribution.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

- have a high standard of attendance (at least 80% of lectures, and, subject to illness or other excused absence, all workshops/rehearsals for which you are called by the director – attendance will be noted) and
- complete all assignments.

WORKLOAD

It is always difficult to specify the workload in courses that have a high practical and creative content. The expected workload for a 20-point course is 200 hours spread evenly over the 12 week trimester and breaks, or 13 hours per teaching week. Therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, about 10 hours

per week (apart from workshop/rehearsal time) in reading, thinking and writing your journal and reports. Rehearsal (up to 5 hours in addition to 2 hours per week of lecture and 2 hours per week of set ‘workshop’ time), practical tasks, learning lines, etc. will then add considerably to the time commitment. Because of the heavy time commitment, you **must** discuss the advisability and timing of undertaking **any** additional theatre work (including THEA 304 directing projects) with the Course Coordinator. Commitments to THEA 204 performances **must** take precedence over THEA 304 productions. Failure to organise these priorities effectively may result in a failing grade in THEA 204.

Please note: there will be **mandatory dress rehearsals Sunday evening 3 August** and **Sunday evening 14 September** so plan ahead to be available. (No evening dress rehearsal for module 3/Greek Theatre...it's too cold!)

ASSESSMENT

Assessment throughout the course is based on: 1. individual students’ contribution to **group wikis**, which facilitate the application of lecture material, readings and discoveries in the practical work in each of the three modules, and 2. **Creative and collaborative contribution** to each performance, assessing practical work, and also based on an individual written journal on Blackboard which documents the student’s work. These two assessment tasks comprise 81% of the course grade. The final 19% comes from the **Reflective practice**, a written piece at the end of the course which summarises the students’ learning across all three modules.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Contribution to group wikis (1000 words per module) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabethan Theatre: <i>Henry 4</i> • Neo-classical Theatre: <i>Tartuffe</i> • Greek Theatre: <i>The Frogs</i> 	30%	1, 2	5pm Friday wiki <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 August • 12 September • 10 October
2	Creative & collaborative contribution (practical work & 500 words per module) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabethan Theatre: <i>Henry 4</i> • Neo-classical Theatre: <i>Tartuffe</i> • Greek Theatre: <i>The Frogs</i> 	51%	2, 3	Final Journal contributions due: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 August • 19 September • 17 October
3	Reflective practice (1000 words)	19%	4	Phase 1: 25 July Phase 2: 28 October

See the detailed individual assessment briefs for additional information and specific marking criteria for each assessment.

Students will stay with the same workshop group for the course, which will thus become, briefly, a company. Over the course of the three modules, each person may expect to be cast in at least one substantial acting role, probably one or two supporting roles, and at least one production role. While you will work closely in your workshop group, and your ability to work collaboratively in that context is part of your participation mark, your assessment is based solely on your individual contribution and written work.

Group work: Theatre work is always creative and collaborative, and makes demands on the ensemble of students, in mutual support of each other and the work generated between them. What is particularly important is to understand how one's own focus and work discipline supports others; how individual initiative and consistency support the general aspiration and realisation of the group. Please **always** be on time to classes and rehearsals, and **always** take full responsibility for tasks allotted to you, or for which you volunteer. Your ability to work as a member of an ensemble will be reflected in the contribution mark.

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. 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. 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. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 14 November 2014.**

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 must wear clothing in which they can move easily to all workshops and rehearsals; no tight pants, short skirts or plunging necklines. Bring a pencil and your script to all rehearsals.

SET TEXTS & RECOMMENDED READING

The three plays studied, and some historical background for each period will be available on the course Blackboard site. It is, however, recommended that students read more broadly on the topics studied.

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

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THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 204

- 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

COURSE PROGRAMME THEA 204

Week 1	Mon 14 July	Introduction (BT/JMck/JDav)
	Wed 16 July	<i>Henry 4</i> [JMck]
Week 2	Mon 21 July	<i>Henry 4</i> [JMck]
	Wed 23 July	<i>Henry 4</i> [JMck]
Week 3	Mon 28 July	<i>Henry 4</i> [JMck]
	Wed 30 July	<i>Henry 4</i> [JMck]
Week 4	Mon 4 Aug	HENRY 4 PERFORMANCES
	Wed 6 Aug	Discussion of <i>Henry 4</i> performances
Week 5	Mon 11 Aug	<i>Tartuffe</i> [BT]
	Wed 13 Aug	<i>Tartuffe</i> [BT]
Week 6	Mon 18 Aug	<i>Tartuffe</i> [BT]
	Wed 20 Aug	<i>Tartuffe</i> [BT]
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 25 August to Sunday 7 September 2014		
Week 7	Mon 8 Sept	<i>Tartuffe</i> [BT]
	Wed 10 Sept	<i>Tartuffe</i> [BT]
Week 8	Mon 15 Sept	TARTUFFE PERFORMANCES

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	Wed 17 Sept	Discussion of <i>Tartuffe</i> performances
Week 9	Mon 22 Sept	<i>The Frogs</i> [JMCK]
	Wed 24 Sept	<i>The Frogs</i> [JMCK]
Week 10	Wed 29 Sept	<i>The Frogs</i> [JMCK]
	Wed 1 Oct	<i>The Frogs</i> [JMCK]
Week 11	Mon 6 Oct	<i>The Frogs</i> [JMCK]
	Wed 8 Oct	<i>The Frogs</i> [JMCK]
Week 12	Mon 13 Oct	THE FROGS PERFORMANCES
	Wed 15 Oct	Discussion of <i>The Frogs</i> performances and course wrap-up