

# THEA 203 Space, Light and Text

**Trimester 1 2014**

3 March to 2 July 2014

**20 Points**



*Théâtre du Soleil Les Naufragés du Fol Espoir (Aurores)* / photo: Michèle Laurent

## IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-Trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Last assessment item due: 16 June 2014

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

### Lectures

Monday and Tuesday                                    2.10pm – 3.00pm                                    FT77 306

### Workshops

Monday    3pm – 6pm (lighting); 3pm-5pm (devising and solo)

Tuesday     10am –1pm (lighting); 10am-12pm (devising and solo)

Workshops will be held in Studio 77 and SU312

(see Course Programme for details)

## CRUCIAL: WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

**Groups A & B on Saturday 22 March *and* Saturday 12 April, 9am-5pm**

**Groups C & D on Sunday 23 March *and* Sunday 13 April, 9am-5pm**

## NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

**Course Coordinator:** Nicola Hyland                                    [nicola.hyland@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nicola.hyland@vuw.ac.nz)                                    463 6826                                    FT77 302

**Teaching Staff:** James Davenport                                    [james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:james.davenport@vuw.ac.nz)                                    463 6842                                    FT77 310

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

**Programme Administrator:** Cathy McCullagh                                    [cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz](mailto: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 the structural principles of theatrical texts.

## 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 May 26 or 27.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. develop disciplined and collaborative working habits as appropriate for professional performing arts
2. demonstrate creative and critical awareness of performance discourses
3. operate a theatre lighting system with safety and good organisation.
4. assemble and disassemble a simple playing space
5. build a short performance through the application of various devising techniques

## 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 Co-ordinator and/or your workshop leader (subject to exceptional circumstances).

## WORKLOAD

Lectures: 2 hours per week

Workshops: 2-3 hours per week

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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 (Approx 12 hours, including 9 hours workshop)	10%	1,3,4	In class: <b><i>Either</i></b> 17/18 March or 7/8 April
2	Creative Report (Approx 20 hours, including 10 hours reading and lecture attendance)	20%	2,5	Thursday 17 April, 12pm
3	Solo Performance (Approx 40 Hours, including 20 hours workshop )	30%	1,2,3,4,5	In class: <b><i>Either</i></b> 26 or 27 May
4	Score (Approx 15 hours, including 5 hours reading and lecture attendance)	10%	2,5	Friday 30 May, 12pm
5	Portfolio (Approx 60 hours, including lecture attendance and reading)	30%	1,2	Monday 16 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 creative autobiography assignments discussed below.

More detailed handouts 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 (30 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
- **Creative Report (1000 words):** This assessment engages with the idea of **research** as a critical element of devised performance. Students will conduct independent research on a performance form commonly associated with a cultural group/movement they identify with. The aim of the report 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, demonstration of relationship between the performance form and cultural community, 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
- **Score (1000 words):** This assessment develops skills in dramaturgical processes in providing a record of / guide to the solo performance. **Marking Criteria:** level of imaginative response to the task, ability to be read clearly as a score of the performance
- **Portfolio (1500 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. **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 or extension form, 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. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. 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 without an extension will be accepted after Wednesday 25 June 2014. The Course Coordinator will not give an extension beyond Wednesday 2 July 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.

## SET TEXTS

THEA 203 Student Notes

You can order textbooks and 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).

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*. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, include the revision and updating of student reading material, efforts to demonstrate the relationship between theory and practice

more cogently in lectures, workshops and assessments and expanded teaching material on devising methodologies.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://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](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/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- 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)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)



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**THEA 203 COURSE PROGRAMME**

Week 1	Date	Monday 3 March	<b>Introduction</b>	NH/BT/JDAV
		Tuesday 4 March	<b>What is Performance?</b>	NH
Week 2	Date	Monday 10 March	<b>What is Devising?</b>	NH
		Tuesday 11 March	<b>What is Devising (Part II)</b>	NH
Week 3	Date	Monday 17 March	<b>Theatre Technology</b>	JDAV
		Tuesday 18 March	<b>Devising Q &amp; A</b>	TBA
			<b>(Plus Showing of Pieces)</b>	
				<b>(1<sup>st</sup> Block) Lighting Tests in Class 17/18 March</b>
Week 4	Date	Monday 24 March	<b>Theatre Technology Part II</b>	JDAV
		Tuesday 25 March	<b>Performance Studies: Ritual</b>	NH
Week 5	Date	Monday 31 March	<b>Theatre Technology Part III</b>	JDAV
		Tuesday 1 April	<b>Performance Studies: Play</b>	NH
Week 6	Date	Monday 7 April	<b>Acting: The Actor's Presence</b>	BT
		Tuesday 8 April	<b>Acting: Physicality and Gesture</b>	BT
			<b>(Plus Showing of Pieces)</b>	
				<b>(2nd Block) Lighting Tests in Class 7/8 April</b>
Week 7	Date	Monday 14 April	<b>Acting: Acting Processes</b>	BT
		Tuesday 15 April	<b>Acting: Acting Styles</b>	BT
				<b>Creative Report Due Thursday 17 April, 12pm</b>
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b>		Friday 18 April to Sunday 4 May 2014		
Week 8	Date	Monday 5 May	<b>Theatre Technology: Space</b>	NH
		Tuesday 6 May	<b>What is Dramaturgy?</b>	NH
Week 9	Date	Monday 12 May	<b>Dramaturgy: Texts</b>	NH
		Tuesday 13 May	<b>Dramaturgy: Text Battle</b>	NH
Week 10	Date	Monday 19 May	<b>Performing Cultures: Translation and Adaptation</b>	BT
		Tuesday 20 May	<b>Theatre Technology: Performance Design</b>	JDAV

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Week 11      Date      Monday 26 May **Performing Cultures: Global Performances** NH  
Tuesday 27 May **Performing Cultures: Creative Case Histories** TBA

**Solo Performances in Class 26/27 May**

Week 12      Date      Monday 2 June **QUEENS BIRTHDAY - NO CLASSES**  
Tuesday 3 June **Who wants to be a Theatre Maker?** TBA

**WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

Week 1      Date      Monday 3 March      3 – 5pm Devising #1  
3 – 6pm Lighting #1  
Tuesday 4 March      10-12pm Devising #1  
10-1 pm Lighting #1

Week 2      Date      Monday 10 March      3 – 5pm Devising #2  
3 – 6pm Lighting #2  
Tuesday 11 March      10-12pm Devising #2  
10-1 pm Lighting #2

Week 3      Date      Monday 17 March      3 – 5pm Devising #3  
3 – 6pm Lighting #3  
Tuesday 18 March      10-12pm Devising #3  
10-1 pm Lighting #3  
**Saturday 22 March or Sunday 23 March**  
**Weekend Workshop #1: 9 am- 5pm**

Week 4      Date      Monday 24 March      3 – 5pm Devising #1  
3 – 6pm Lighting #1  
Tuesday 25 March      10-12pm Devising #1  
10-1 pm Lighting #1

Week 5      Date      Monday 31 March      3 – 5pm Devising #2  
3 – 6pm Lighting #2

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Tuesday 1 April 10-12pm Devising #2  
10-1 pm Lighting #2

Week 6	Date	Monday 17 March	3 – 5pm Devising #3 3 – 6pm Lighting #3
		Tuesday 18 March	10-12pm Devising #3 10-1 pm Lighting #3

**Saturday 12 April or Sunday 13 April**

**Weekend Workshop #2: 9 am- 5pm**

Week 7	Date	<b>NO WORKSHOPS</b>
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**Mid Trimester Break:** Friday 18 April to Sunday 4 May 2014

Week 8	Date	Monday 5 May	3 – 5pm Solo Performance #1 3 – 5pm Solo Performance #1
		Tuesday 6 May	10-12pm Solo Performance # 10-12 pm Solo Performance #

Week 9	Date	Monday 12 May	3 – 5pm Solo Performance #2 3 – 5pm Solo Performance #2
		Tuesday 13 May	10-12pm Solo Performance #2 10-12 pm Solo Performance #2

Week 10	Date	Monday 19 May	3 – 5pm Solo Performance #3 3 – 5pm Solo Performance #3
		Tuesday 20 May	10-12pm Solo Performance #3 10-1 2pm Solo Performance #3

Week 11	Date	Monday 26 May	3 – 5pm <b>Solo Performance Presentation</b> 3 – 5pm <b>Solo Performance Presentation</b>
		Tuesday 27 May	10-12pm <b>Solo Performance Presentation</b> 10-1 2pm <b>Solo Performance Presentation</b>

Week 12	Date	<b>NO WORKSHOPS</b>
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