

THEA 406 Special Topic: Advanced Acting

Trimester 1+2 2014

3 March to 16 November 2014

30 Points



Herbert Fritsch's production of *Der Spanische Flieger*. Pictured: Christine Urspruch and Wolfram Koch

Image source: *Zitty 10* (2012: 3 – 16 May)

IMPORTANT DATES

Trimester dates:	3 March to 16 November 2014
Teaching dates:	3 March to 17 October 2014
Easter/Mid-Trimester break:	18 April to 4 May 2014
Mid-year break:	3 to 13 July 2014

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Mid-trimester break 2/3:	25 August to 7 September 2014
Study week:	20 to 24 October 2014
Last assessment item due:	Friday 31 October
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

Seminars/workshops

Fridays 10.00 – 12.50pm SU312

Please note: At honours level a degree of independence is expected of students working on their creative research projects. To this end, workshop classes may not be scheduled every week in the official class time, but the space is available for students to use to rehearse their performance projects [These days are noted as “individual rehearsal” on the course programme timetable].

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Bronwyn Tweddle bronwyn.tweddle@vuw.ac.nz 463 6852 77FT 301

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be sent via email and announcements in Blackboard in the first instance, so it is your responsibility to ensure that Bronwyn has your current email address and that you check your emails on a regular basis. 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. Information may also be announced in class and/or posted on the THEA 406 notice board on level three, 77 FT. It is recommended therefore that students regularly check the notice boards and Blackboard in addition to their email. Bronwyn will endeavour to respond to emails from students within 2 working days.

PRESCRIPTION

Students will explore several key acting methodologies through theoretical study, practical application and analytical reflection. Each acting methodology will be introduced through readings and applied practical workshops. Methods will be tested for their usefulness in improvisations and script-work and analysed for applicability to different performance goals and contexts

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Understand the context, rationale and key concepts of several major acting methods;
2. Apply these concepts to performance preparation;
3. Analyse and assess their own performance practice; and
4. Apply these concepts to articulating strengths and weaknesses in performance work by others.

TEACHING FORMAT

Regular readings will be allocated as preparation for practical workshops in which the methodologies will be applied, tested and critiqued. Written reflection and analysis will supplement in-class critical discussions. Blackboard will be actively used to provide additional resources to support student performance research projects.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

1. submit all written assignments and
2. complete all performance projects set.

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
1	Performance work projects [3 projects in total, 5 minutes max. duration per project] Estimated total preparation hours for	50% in total	1, 2, 3	Friday 9 May (in class) Friday 22 August (in class) Friday 10 October (in class)

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	performance projects = 120			
2	Process workbook [2 workbook instalments] Estimated total preparation hours for process workbook = 72	30%	1, 2, 3	4pm, Friday 20 June 4pm, Friday 31 October
3	Critique and reflection documents [2 critiques, 4000 words max. in total] Estimated total preparation hours for reflection documents = 48	20%	1, 3, 4	4pm, Friday 23 May 4pm, Friday 5 September

Further details on these assessment tasks, including detailed marking criteria, are available on class assignment briefs. **All assessment will be internal. There is no final examination.**

Group work: Though all academic assessments are individual for this course, 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 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 or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.

Grades and comments will be returned to you in hard copy in class. 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.

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 should wear comfortable clothing, which allows extended movement, to all classes and rehearsals. For performance work, students will be required to source or make props and costume pieces appropriate to their character/s and to document their work in a manner appropriate to the project.

SET TEXTS

Essential readings will be made available via Blackboard and/or will be determined by individual research projects allocated in class.

RECOMMENDED READING

A detailed list of recommended readings and viewing material is available 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 seminar 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

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/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

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COURSE PROGRAMME:

Week 1	Friday 7 March	Introduction to methodologies [BT]
Week 2	Friday 14 March	Stanislavsky & Collaborators [BT]
Week 3	Friday 21 March	Stanislavsky's Descendents: Alfreds, Donnellan [BT]
Week 4	Friday 28 March	Stanislavsky diverted: Meyerhold's Biomechanics [BT]
Week 5	Friday 4 April	Opposition to Stanislavsky?: Brecht [BT]
Week 6	Friday 11 April	Individual rehearsal
Week 7	Friday 18 April	GOOD FRIDAY – NO CLASS

Mid Trimester Break: Friday 18 April to Sunday 4 May 2014

Week 8	Tuesday 6 May	Performance project presentation 1 [10am – 1pm, venue tba]
	Friday 9 May	Acting for the Camera 1 (Theory) [Andreas Heinemann]
Week 9	Friday 16 May	Acting for the Camera 2 (Rehearsal) [Andreas Heinemann]
Week 10	Friday 23 May	Acting for the Camera 3 (Shoot 1) [Andreas Heinemann]
	Friday 23 May	<i>Critique & reflection 1 due 4pm</i>
Week 11	Friday 30 May	Acting for the Camera (Shoot 2) [Andreas Heinemann]
Week 12	Friday 6 June	10am – 5pm: Michael Chekhov & Meisner technique [Hilary Halba, with MTAs]

Post-trimester: *Friday 20 June Process workbook instalment 1 due 4pm*

Mid Year Break: Thursday 3 to Sunday 13 July 2014

Week 13	Friday 18 July	Commedia dell'arte [BT, with MTAs]
Week 14	Friday 25 July	Laban [BT]
Week 15	Friday 1 August	Butoh [BT]
Week 16	Friday 8 August	Individual rehearsal

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Week 17 Friday 15 August Individual rehearsal

Week 18 **Friday 22 August** **Performance project presentation 2**

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 25 August to Sunday 7 September 2014

In the break: *Friday 5 September Critique & reflection 1 due 4pm*

Week 19 Friday 12 September Structuring and 'selling' a song [BT]

Week 20 Friday 19 September Individual rehearsal

Week 21 Friday 26 September Individual rehearsal

Week 22 Friday 3 October Coaching for Film [Miranda Harcourt, with MTAs]

Week 23 **Friday 10 October** **Performance project presentation 3**

Week 24 Friday 17 October Final round-up/conclusions

Post-trimester: *Friday 31 October Process workbook instalment 2 due 4pm*

NB: Performance assessments in **bold**, written assessments in *italics*
