

THEA 589 Research Project (MTA)

Trimester 1 + 2 2014

3 March to 17 October 2014

30 Points



Jennifer Martin in *Pandemic*, devised and directed by MTA graduate Kerryn Palmer, STAB season, BATS Theatre, Wellington 2013. Photo: Ross Giblin/Fairfax NZ

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
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	25 August to 7 September 2014
Last piece of assessment due:	27 October 2014

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
THEATRE PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE THEA 589

Please note: The term dates at Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School differ from those at Victoria and are as follows:

Term 1:	17 February to 17 April 2014
Term 2:	5 May to 27 June 2014
Term 3:	14 July to 29 August 2014
Term 4:	22 September to 13 November 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

Classes are not every week, but take place on the following days at 93 Kelburn Parade

- Friday 28 Feb, 10am – 1pm
- Fri 30 May, 2 – 5pm
- Fri 8 Aug, 2 – 5pm
- Fri 17 Oct, 2 – 5pm

Students' presentation of performance projects will take place in the THEA 511 time slot.

Supervision:

In addition, each student will meet individually with a supervisor, with times and dates to be set by the student and supervisor together. The bulk of the course, however, is designed as independent research on the student's part.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator:	David O'Donnell	david.odonnell@vuw.ac.nz	463 6828	FT77 308
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Projects also supervised by:

Brett Adam	Brett.Adam@toiwhakaari.ac.nz	381 9228	Toi Whakaari
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Course Administrator	Cathy McCullagh	cathy.mccullagh@vuw.ac.nz	463 5359	FT83 202
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COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be sent via email in the first instance, so it is your responsibility to ensure that the Course Coordinator has your current email address and that you check your emails on a regular basis. The information will also be posted on the Blackboard system. It is recommended therefore that students regularly Blackboard in addition to their email.

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 gives students the opportunity to pursue an individual research project with regular guidance and support from a supervisor. Practical and creative work will be included as part of each research project.

COURSE CONTENT

What kind of director/artist am I? This is the question that THEA 589 is designed to help you ask and explore. The paper is largely independent research – with guidance, students will formulate a personal and substantive research question for the paper and for Part I of the degree more generally. Relying on self-driven research, and assisted by one-on-one supervision, occasional group meetings, and links with other papers on the degree, students in THEA 589 will each propose and execute a tailored research project; this project will result in written and creative articulations of the student's findings and of his/her individual directing methodologies. From this perspective, the paper is set up to foster in students a strong sense of the artist as researcher/investigator.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. successfully complete performative projects, based on their research, that require initiative, leadership, and risk-taking. (Developing leadership and creative skills)
2. begin forming and articulating (both critically and practically) a sense of their individual directing aesthetics, goals, and methodologies. (Developing critical, communication and leadership skills)
3. write clear, persuasive proposals for theatrical projects. (Developing communication skills)
4. articulate ideas that are informed by critical reading skills, in direct relationship to their own interests as directors. (Developing critical skills)
5. be prepared for Part 2 of the MTA degree, having practiced many of the requisite theoretical and practical skills utilized in Part 2.
6. articulate a strong understanding of the role of research, and spirit of investigation, in artistic work. (Developing critical skills)

TEACHING FORMAT

Students will be assigned to a supervisor (either the Part 1 or Part 2 MTA Co-ordinator) for their research project and will work with this supervisor to choose a research topic relevant to their evolution as a director. Students will conduct research into this topic, producing an annotated bibliography and making presentations relevant to the research question. The findings of the research will be presented both in performative and written forms at the conclusion of the course. Students will regularly meet with their supervisors, and there will also be a number of formal classes that will provide students with advanced research skills and will give them the opportunity to discuss their project.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

- Complete all assignments, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the year or 12.5 hours per teaching week. This means you should expect to spend an average of about 12.5 hours per week in research, reading, preparation, thinking, writing, rehearsal and meetings with your supervisor. At Masters level it is expected that students will attend every class. If you are going to miss a class, please contact the course co-ordinator in advance if possible. Absences due to illness should be documented by a medical certificate.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	<p>Self-Presentation Showing</p> <p>This is the first articulation of the student's directing methodology, as informed by his/her research question, and specifically addressing the question: Who am I as an artist?</p> <p>Length: 5 minute performance with oral critique Approx 10 hours</p>	20%	1,2,5,6	In class Friday 14 March
2	<p>Annotated Bibliography</p> <p>Length: 2000-2500 words (roughly 15-20 sources) Approx 30 hours (excluding the reading itself)</p>	20%	2,3,4,6	Due 5pm, Friday 6 June
3	<p>Cross-discipline presentation</p> <p>A 15 minute performative presentation on your research into a non-arts-based subject at VUW Approx 30 hours</p>	20%	1,2,4,6	In class Friday 18 July
4	<p>Final Performance Showing</p> <p>The final articulation of the student's directing methodology, as informed by his/her research question Approx 80 hours</p>	40%	1,2,3,4,5,6	<p>a) Proposal (10% of overall course grade) Due: 5pm 15 August</p> <p>b) 15 minute Performance (20% of</p>

				overall course grade) Friday 10 October c) Report (10% of overall course grade) Due: 5pm 17 October
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Further details and marking criteria are included in detailed assignment handouts posted on Blackboard.

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 lecturer in class 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. 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 will be accepted after Friday 31 October 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

Any additional materials and equipment required will depend upon the nature of the research project defined by the student and their supervisor.

RECOMMENDED READING

To be set in consultations between each student and his/her supervisor.

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
- 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

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- 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