

LIVE THEATRE Summer 2012 [Please note that this programme is based on last year's plays- it will be updated as the new season becomes available]

Course Code SS1805

Aims

- i To provide an introduction to live theatre in London today, focusing on its diversity
- ii To enable students to understand the practicalities of theatre performance and how the theatre and its practitioners function
- iii To provide an in-depth knowledge and understanding of one of the plays seen, through close analysis of the text and the production techniques
- iv: To develop students' analytical skills in assessing the shows they see

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course students should have gained

- i A broad knowledge of London and its theatre, present and past
- ii An understanding of the mechanics of creating and performing a play, and of the collaboration of all those involved in the creative process
- iii An in-depth knowledge of the chosen play and how it developed from page to stage
- iv: An enhanced ability to appreciate and enjoy live theatre through the knowledge the students have gained

Teaching and learning strategies

The course will comprise a mixture of trips to a cross-section of theatres and plays – modern, traditional and musical – sites of theatrical and historical interest, workshops with theatre companies or actors and discussions of the plays seen. Students will also be asked to make one independent trip to a theatre of their choosing.

Assessment

Students will be required to write four papers and give a presentation.

Papers 1, 2 & 4 will be short (max 750 words) reviews of three of the plays the students have seen. The two best papers will be submitted as part of the students' overall mark. 20% per paper, total 40%.

Paper 3 will be a close analysis of the chosen play (up to 1,500 words). 30%

The *Presentation*: an oral presentation of around 10-15 minutes, to be given individually in one of a given number of forms, which we will discuss beforehand. The subject-matter must include elements of Learning Outcomes (i) above. A summary and bibliography should be included to back up the oral work. 30%

Attendance is required at all course classes and activities. Absences will be penalised. (max 20% to be deducted.)

N.B. The University reserves the right to vary or revise the content at its discretion.

LIVE THEATRE SUMMER 2011

DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
Fri 1 July	10 – 12pm	JG	Class 1) Intro to course
Mon 4 July	2- 3.30 pm 3.45-5.15 7.30	JG National Theatre	Class 2) Essay guidelines; prep <i>ONE MAN</i> ; intro to impro (<i>Commedia</i>); distribute script <i>BETTY BLUE EYES/A Private Function</i> <i>Talk from industry professional?</i> Play 1: ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS
Wed 6 July	2-3.30 pm; 4.30-6pm 7.30pm	JG Stratford East	Class 3) Discuss <i>ONE MAN</i> , prep <i>TAKEAWAY/Theatre Royal</i> . Travel to Stratford/Pudding Mill Lane, visit Olympic site Play 2: TAKEAWAY
Thurs 7 July	11.30am	JG	LECTURE (Group B)
Friday 6 July - Monday 9 July 2012 FREE FOUR DAY WEEKEND			
Tues 12			1st assessment due (One Man)
Wed 13 July	2-3pm 3.15- 4.15pm 5-6.30pm 7.30pm	JG West End Novello	Class 4) Discuss TAKEAWAY. Prep/workshop BETTY BLUE EYES West End quiz Play 3: BETTY BLUE EYES
Friday 15 July	11.30-1pm 2-3pm 3-4pm 7.30pm	JG JG Almeida	LECTURE (Group A) Class 5) Discuss BETTY BLUE EYES Individual essays; Play 4: THE THEATRE BROTHEL
Monday 18 July	10 – 11am 11.15- 12.15 ? 5.15pm	JG National Theatre	2nd assessment due (Takeaway) Class 6) Discuss THEATRE BROTHEL Prepare/workshop MUCH ADO ? Backstage tour (<i>booked for 12.15: change?</i>)
Tues 19 July			<i>Globe – ALL 'S WELL (Group B)</i>
Weds 20 July	12.30-2pm 2.30-3.30 7pm	<i>Globe</i> Globe Theatre	<i>Workshop</i> Walking tour Bankside/Shakespeare walk. 5: MUCH ADO (Globe)
Fri 20 – Mon 23 2012 FREE FOUR DAY WEEKEND			
Tues 26			3rd assessment due
Weds 27 July	2-3.30pm 4.15pm 7.30	JG <i>West End</i>	Class 7) Discuss MUCH ADO, Globe workshop <i>Drury Lane backstage tour</i> PLAY 6: <i>Indie theatre visit?</i>

Friday 29 July	10am	JG	4th assessment due (Theatre Brothel/Much Ado) Class 8) Presentations; course review; quiz
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www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

<http://www.improbable.co.uk/>

<http://www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk/Groups/education.php> (Enron)

Lectures and Visits

This course introduces students to English theatre through visits to a cross-section of shows in the West End, the National Theatre and the fringe, and to other locations associated with theatre in London. Students are given the opportunity to meet with practising actors, writers or directors and to understand how a play evolves from page to stage. They will also take part in practical workshops run by professional actors or professional theatre companies (for which no previous acting experience or skills are required).

The course is aimed obviously at students with an interest in theatre, but it can be adapted to meet specific individual interests, for example in acting, writing, directing or designing etc.

Introduction to the course. A general explanation of the course, including a discussion about the current state of theatre in London and the plays we will be seeing, and a precise explanation of what is expected of your assignments and the presentation, and how they will be assessed.

Theatre visits. We will see five shows. Productions will include a visit to the West End, the National Theatre, the Globe, a fringe theatre, and a musical. The aim is to see as many different styles of theatre as possible in different spaces, large and small, traditional and experimental.

The schedule is still provisional and some programmes may take place on different days and at different times, depending on the availability of tickets, workshops and guest speakers. Most days will begin in the afternoon, especially where there is an evening performance scheduled. The morning can be taken up with writing essays.

We will discuss each play before we see it, and again in more depth afterwards. Where possible and useful, you will be given extra information about the shows, either in written form or via a website.

Assessments: you will be expected to write reviews of around 750 words of three of the shows we see, of which the best two will go towards your final mark. The reviews should be written as if for a university magazine, and marks will be awarded for clarity, conciseness and insight. As a guide, we will look at some theatre reviews in national newspapers.

Close analysis of the chosen play: One of the plays we see we will study in depth, by looking at the text and talking to someone involved in the production to discover how writers, directors, actors, designers, producers and technicians collaborate to get a play 'from the page to the stage'. This will result in a written assignment (Paper 4).

We will discuss all of the assessments in more detail in class, and I will hand out written guidelines explaining exactly what is expected of you.

Assessment deadlines:

Paper 1 Tuesday 10 July

Paper 2 Monday 16 July

Paper 3 Tuesday 24 July

Paper 4 Friday 27 July

The presentation: you will be asked to give an individual presentation of around ten minutes to show what you have learned in the course, and in particular about the London theatre past and present. The form of the presentation can be as imaginative as you like: for example as a character from one of the plays, in mime or dance, in the form of a game, as a straightforward talk or interview and so on. Marks will be awarded for creativity and innovation, as well as for insights and an understanding of the London theatre.

How to survive working in the Theatre: an informal talk from a practising actor, writer or director describing the everyday life of a working (or non-working!) theatre practitioner.

Theatre in the past. We will go on a ‘Shakespeare Walk’ through the City and Bankside to places where Shakespeare and his contemporaries worked and played. We will also tour the West End theatres and students will learn about their history and the famous – and infamous – people associated with them.

We will go on **Backstage Tours** of the National Theatre and Shakespeare’s Globe, and we will visit **The Theatre Museum** at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Lecture, The English Theatre. This will focus on the current theatre scene and how it evolved in particular in the latter part of the 20th century; and on Shakespeare and “the golden age of theatre” in Elizabeth’s England. This will be followed by a related performance at Globe Theatre.

Workshop with The Globe Theatre: a practical workshop held by an actor or director at the Globe Theatre; and a workshop organised by the producers of ‘**Enron**’. No previous experience or skills are required for these workshops.

Independent theatre visit. Students will be expected to see a show of their choosing, on a day and time of their choosing, and talk about it to the others afterwards. Full details will be given in the first class session and you will be given an allowance to spend on your ticket for this show.

Presentations and Course Review.**Advance Preparation BEFORE coming to Kingston****Websites**

www.shakespeares-globe.org

www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

www.whatsonstage.com

www.fringetheatre.org.uk

www.officiallondontheatre.com

www.guardian.co.uk/theatre

www.timesonline.co.uk

Recommended reading

Michael Billington, *State of the Nation*, Faber & Faber, 2007
Stanley Wells, *Shakespeare & Co.*, Penguin Allen and Lane, 2006
Shakespeare's Globe Theatre Guidebook, Spinney Publications
David Edgar, *State of Play*, Faber, 1999
Simon Trussler, *British Theatre*, Cambridge University Press, 1994
Peter Brook, *The Empty Space*, Penguin, 1968
Michael Kustow, *Theatre @ Risk*, Methuen, 2001