

Carleton University
Winter 2017
Department of English

ENGL 3904 — Intermediate Drama Workshop
Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2001 (no longer offered)
Prerequisite(s): ENGL 2104 or permission of the Department

Tuesday: 2:35-5:25pm
Classroom: PA 115
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Sarah McVie
Office: DT 1914
Office Hours: 10AM-1PM, Wednesdays, or by appointment
Email: sarahmcvie@cunet.carleton.ca

Collective Creation

This practical course will allow students to devise an original piece of theatre based on a meaningful theme. Inspired by contemporary actor training theory practiced in Canadian theatre programs over the past 35 years, this course will take students on a journey into the world of theatrical collaborative creation. Students will develop their actor's tool kit, investigate a variety of texts from classical antiquity to modern pop lyrics, and devise theatrical events (scenes) to be weaved together for a public performance at the end of the term.

Collective creation has a long tradition in Canadian Theatre and there are several well known productions that were developed through devised process including: *The Farm Show* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine* (Theatre Columbus) and *Ten Lost Years* (Toronto Workshop Productions). Working in groups, students will collaborate with their peers to investigate a theme, examining texts from William Shakespeare to Suzan-Lori Parks. Each class will focus on new exercises derived from the methods of companies like Common Boots Theatre (Canada) and Theatre du Complicité (UK). General theatre practice will be covered and students will be exposed to the technical aspects of theatre production including: lighting, projection, set and costume design, properties, stage management, front of house procedures and good health and safety practices in a working theatre space.

Course Objective

Students will leave this class with a practical understanding of the requirements necessary for mounting an original piece of theatre. Questions of text analysis, dramatic writing, improvisation, design and dramaturgical structure will be approached under the guidance of a professional theatre artist. This project is a collaboration with students of the Azrieli

School of Architecture’s Theatre Design Workshop. The course will culminate in a presentation of the created piece for an invited audience.

Class Format

We will meet once a week for three hours. Extra rehearsal time outside of class may be required leading up to performance.

You are expected to attend a performance of *The Ghomeshi Effect* at the Arts Court Theatre sometime between January 19-22nd.

Course Assessment

| | Assignment | Deadline | Course Value |
|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Participation | Attendance and commitment to process. Each student will be responsible for building a cuPortfolio that contains coursework, assignments and reflects your personal learning journey throughout the term. An outline will be provided and there will be an in-class presentation on using this learning tool. | | 20% |
| Production Project | Research a theatre production that employed verbatim, collaborative creation and/or originally devised material. Display your research on your CuPortfolio and share your findings in class. | January 31st | 10% |
| Sonnet Ritual | Create a collage of images that express the ideas and allusions imbedded in a Shakespearean Sonnet, include a glossary of terms that are not in common usage or have multiple meanings. Perform the sonnet as a ritual. | February 7 th –page of images February 28 th –performance | 15% |
| Soliloquy | Use a found letter to craft a soliloquy. | March 14th | 10% |
| Roles within the Group Work | Fulfill the requirements needed to support the creation process. Participate as a group member and collaborate with your peers to define best practices for the work. You may perform many roles over the course of the process. | April 4th | 15% self and peer assessed |
| Collective Creation Project | Devise, rehearse and perform in a piece of theatre as part of the “Soliloquies, Sonnets and Selfies” project. Collaborate with students of the Architecture Theatre Workshop and ENLG 4605. | April 4 th | 30% |

Course Outline

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|---------|---------|---|
| WEEK 1 | Jan. 10 | Discussion: Collective Creation and Devised Theatre Trust work and ensemble building Assign: Production Project and cuPortfolio |
| WEEK 2 | Jan. 17 | Discussion: Collaboration Context, Content and Concept Collage Exercise Assign: Soliloquies, Sonnets and Selfies Assign: Sonnet Ritual |
| WEEK 3 | Jan. 24 | Discussion: Shakespeare Sonnet Analysis Assign: Sonnet Ritual Guest Artist: Jessica Ruano Assign: Soliloquy |
| WEEK 4 | Feb. 7 | Skill building workshop: Viewpoints |
| WEEK 5 | Feb. 14 | Collective creation work session |
| WEEK 6 | Feb. 28 | Sonnet Ritual Performances |
| WEEK 7 | Mar. 7 | Work session. |
| WEEK 8 | Mar. 14 | Soliloquy assignment due. |
| WEEK 9 | Mar. 21 | Work session. |
| WEEK 10 | Mar. 28 | Collective Creation Performance ** |
| WEEK 11 | April 4 | Post-Mortem on collective creation project. |

**We will discuss the date and time for the final performance as this is a collaboration with two other courses. Showtime TBD

Suggested Text (available at Haven Books):

Lennard, John, and Mary Luckhurst. *The Drama Handbook: A Guide to Reading Plays*. New York, Oxford, 2002. Print.

REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with

Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence, which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.