

Carleton University
Winter 2018
Department of English

ENGL 4605 A: *Theatre Production Seminar*
Topic: Direction and Dramaturgy in Devised Theatre

*Prerequisites: ENGL 3904 or permission of the department;
and prior participation in a Sock 'n' Buskin production.*

Mondays / 18:05 – 19:55 and Tuesdays/ 14:30 – 15:30

**Location: *English Department Lounge, Dunton Tower 18th floor/ Azrieli School of
Architecture Room 209***

Instructor: Rebecca Benson

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Office: 1914DT

Phone: 613-520-2310 ext. 2307

Office Hours: 12:00-14:00 Tuesdays or by appointment

I. Course description:

The theatre director and dramaturge are largely twentieth-century constructs that have become prevalent in contemporary theatre creation. This course will give students the opportunity to explore the roles of director and dramaturge as creative and collaborative leaders in the process of devising theatre. Students will have the unique experience of collaborating with design students from the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism under the teaching of Professor Yvan Cazabon on the creation of an original piece of theatre from selections of found and adapted text on the theme *Dialogues, Duets and Diatribes - Part 1: Personal Encounters*. Students in ENGL 3904: *Devised Theatre in Performance* will also be involved in the performance as actors and collaborators. The performance will be presented for an invited audience at the end of term.

Attendance of all lectures/workshops is required. Because this is a project-based course and there will be extensive practical group work, students will be relying on one another to be present, prepared and committed. Rehearsals will mainly take place during class time, but some rehearsals outside of scheduled class time will also be necessary.

PLEASE NOTE: Monday classes overlap one hour with students in 3904 to facilitate rehearsal with actors. Tuesday classes are with the Architecture students to facilitate collaboration with designers.

Course Objective

- Students will leave this course with an appreciation for the director's roles as interpreter, creator, coach and collaborator through the practical experience of staging and collaborating in the creation of an original piece of theatre. *Process* will be the central focus, allowing each student to devise a unique approach to creative leadership based on historical and contemporary models of theatre practice.
- Students will develop an understanding of the dramaturge's role in the creation of new work and in relationship to the structuring of a text.

II. Texts:

- Required Texts (available at Haven Books):
 - Course Pack.

Course Assessment

| | Assignment | Deadline | Course Value |
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| Participation | Attendance and commitment to process. Participation in class discussions and exercises. | | 10% |
| Journal | A written record of the student's learning journey throughout the course. Use this to record exercises, personal reflections on exercises, feedback, thoughts, ideas, comments by others from group discussions, questions, anything related to the course. This journal will also include written responses to assigned questions on the readings in the course pack. Submissions may be electronic or hand written in a notebook. | Final day of classes | 20% |
| Adaptation | Adapt an assigned or chosen short selection of text into a dialogue or scene between two or more characters. | January 21 st | 10% |
| Script, Concept and Design Presentation and Group Critique | A group presentation with your design team of your proposed script, concept and design. Group Critique: Each group will discuss all the other presentations and provide a paragraph of feedback for the other groups. | Feb 5 th | 15% |

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|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----|
| Theatre Artist Profile | Research an established theatre director that practices devised theatre and present your findings to the class, outlining your subject's body of work. - Write up and submit your presentation. (800 words) | February 25th | 10% |
| Open Rehearsal | Lead an open rehearsal in front of your peers and instructor in class. This is an opportunity for your instructor to view your collaborative approach, your leadership and communication skills, your approach to translating and shaping your ideas and the ideas of the group into physical representation on stage. | March 11 th and 18th | 15% |
| Scenes Project | Guide your group through the rehearsal and technical rehearsal process in the staging of a section of the piece of theatre created in the " <i>Dialogue, Duets and Diatribes</i> " project. Write a reflection on your collaborative process and the final performance. | April 5-6th | 20% |

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

V. Course Calendar *:

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| WEEK 1 | Jan. 7/8 | Discussion: Collective Creation and Devised Theatre Assign: Collaborative Teams |
| WEEK 2 | Jan. 14/15 | Discussion: Dramaturgy Assign: Text for Adaptation |
| WEEK 3 | Jan. 21/22 | Discussion: Text Analysis and the unit of action Assign: Research Assignment – Theatre artist profile |
| WEEK 4 | Jan 28/29 | Discussion: Course Pack Readings Skill Building workshop |
| WEEK 5 | Feb 4/5 | Skill Building Workshop Script, Concept and Design Presentations |
| WEEK 6 | Feb. 11 | Skill building workshop |
| | Feb. 18 | Winter Break – No class |
| WEEK 7 | Feb. 25 | Collaborative work session: Rehearsal |
| WEEK 8 | Mar. 4 | Collaborative work session: Rehearsal |
| WEEK 9 | Mar. 11 | Open Rehearsal for Evaluation |
| WEEK 10 | Mar. 18 | Open Rehearsal for Evaluation |

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| | | Collaborative work session: Rehearsal |
| WEEK 11 | Mar. 25 | Work session/ Rehearsal |
| WEEK 12 | April 1 | Tech Rehearsal and Performance ** likely April 4 and 5 |
| WEEK 13 | April 8 | Post-Mortem on project and process |

* Course Calendar is subject to changes. Final Calendar will be provided at the first class.

**We will discuss the date and time for the final. Show date is likely to be during the weekend of April 5-6.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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.

More information on the university’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: <https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf>

Requests 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

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>