COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Offers students in their final year of Devised Theatre an intensive curriculum in further perspectives of devised theatre exploration. Incorporating skill sets from the previous two years of training, this class will focus on advanced techniques for creating and performing original theatre works in a group setting, in preparation for a performance in the Devised Theatre Festival in the winter term. Prerequisites: Grade of B or better in FA/THEA 3051 3.00 and permission of the Theatre Department. Open to majors only. Note: Plus rehearsal hours.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Garrett, Ian P.</td>
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<td>Jansen, David</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design Department of Theatre FA/THEA 4050 3.00 Devised Theatre Perspectives * Wednesdays 2:30-5:30pm (Zoom/ACE 207/209—TBD) * Fridays 2:30-5:30am (Zoom/ACE 207/209—TBD) Instructors: Ian Garrett & David Jansen Email: igarrett@yorku.ca / djansen@yorku.ca Office Hours: by appointment only. Expanded Description THEA 4050 3.0 Devised Theatre Perspectives builds upon THEA 3050: Devised Theatre in Practice I, offering students an opportunity to devise new theatre work in a model that reflects current industry practice, both in structure and in methodology. Students will be formed into small production companies, which are tasked with creating a research-based devising model that will lead to a workshop presentation by the end of the semester with the aim to a full production developed in the Winter term. The instructors will introduce or clarify professional work methods and techniques, or view student work for feedback during the Wednesday class time. The Friday Laboratory session is for rehearsals. At least 1 additional time will be required for a successful outcome. Learning Objectives The specific objectives of the course are that the students will be able to: • articulate the artistic and sociopolitical goals of their devising work • apply more advanced devising techniques, including previous coursework, to create their original pieces • enhance their conceptual and/or performance skills in their assigned theatre project • develop their ability to offer and receive effective critical feedback about their own work and that of their classmates • further develop confidence in their communication and collaboration skills in a group setting Remote Learning The entire term’s course will be conducted online using Zoom via Moodle, as it is highly unlikely that we will be able to assemble safely as a full class in one studio. However, given the structure of the course, it may be possible for production companies to meet in ACE 207/209 for individual rehearsals. All studio rehearsals would need to operate in strict adherence to York University’s health and safety guidelines. Some students may not be able to rehearse in person. Should any student choose to participate in the entire course remotely, or must do so out of necessity, they will not be penalized. Every accommodation will be made to ensure their thorough participation. 2 Technical Requirements As this course depends on remote teaching and learning, you will be expected to take part via Zoom video-conferencing. This means that you will need to have access to stable, relatively high speed Internet connection; a computer with webcam and microphone, and/or a smart device
with these features. One way to determine your internet connection and speed is to run an online test. There are a number available, but one such site is Speedtest. To help navigate other technical issues, you might also find these links useful: Student Guide to Moodle https://lthelp.yorku.ca/student-guide-to-moodle Computing for Students Website https://lthelp.yorku.ca/student-guide-to-eLearning-at-York-University Learning Skills Services https://lss.info.yorku.ca/online-learning/Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide


Zoom@YorkU Best Practices https://staff.computing.yorku.ca/wpcontent/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/Zoom@YorkU-BestPracticesv2.pdf

Course Schedule NB. The following schedule is subject to change: Sep. 9 ~ Introduction to Coursework Sept. 11 ~ Rehearsal Sept. 16 ~ Finding and Using Source Materials Sept. 18 ~ Rehearsal Sept. 23 ~ Practicum with Ian Sept. 25 ~ Rehearsal Sept. 30 ~ Practicum with David Oct. 2 ~ Rehearsal Oct. 7 ~ Practicum with Ian (Company Written Proposal/Meta Work Plan due) Oct. 9 ~ Rehearsal READING WEEK Oct. 21 ~ 5 Minute Showing Oct. 23 ~ Rehearsal Oct. 28 ~ Practicum with David Oct. 30 ~ Rehearsal Nov. 4 ~ 10 Minute Showing Nov. 6 ~ Rehearsal Nov. 11 ~ Pitch Building Workshop Nov. 13 ~ Rehearsal Nov. 18 ~ 15 Minute Open Showing Nov. 20 ~ Rehearsal Nov. 25 ~ Debrief of Open Showing Nov. 27 ~ Rehearsal Dec. 2 ~ Workplan for the Winter DT Festival Dec. 4 ~ Rehearsal Course Evaluation Assignment/Showing Deadlines Due Date Value Company Proposal for DT Production October 7 20% 5 Minute Showing** October 21 10 Minute Showing** November 4 15 Minute Open Showing** November 18 Individual Written Summary of Contribution November 25 20% Self/Peer Evaluations*** November 25 Individual contribution to development and showings ** Ongoing 40% Professionalism/Work Ethic*** Ongoing 20% **Criteria for Grading: commitment, engagement, risk taking, specificity, range, depth of investigation, growth between showings *** Peer Evaluations will be factored into your Professionalism/Work Ethic grade. Attendance Students are reminded that Department of Theatre rules require attendance at all classes. There is no differentiation between excused and unexcused absences - an absence is an absence and will affect your chances of success in this course. All classes and outside rehearsals with classmates are mandatory. Failure to attend all classes and outside rehearsals will result in either academic penalty or a request that the student withdraw from the class. Any student who is absent or late without prior arrangement with the instructor may have 2% deducted from the final grade for each absence or late arrival. Three late arrivals or absences (excused or not) will result in course failure. If a student is going to be considerably late or miss a class for any reason, the student must contact the course director prior to the beginning of that class. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused late or absence. Part-time jobs or outside employment in theatre-related endeavours do not count as excused absences. The only exception is a crew call for a matinee performance of a department production performed as an essential member of the running crew, and the instructor must be informed in advance about the conflict. Missed Class Presentation Penalty Missed class presentations on the due date will be penalized with a grade of zero for the absent student. Exceptions to the missed class presentation penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter). The instructor will attempt to reschedule the missed class presentation to facilitate group members affected by an excused absence. Due to the collaborative nature of this studio course, make-up assignments will not be scheduled. 4 IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS A Note on Challenging Content One of the central educational goals of the Theatre Department is to produce socially conscious artists — artists who are aware of and capable of participating in challenging dialogues about social injustice and inequality. This means that our courses, public events, and productions often grapple with difficult subject matter, including sex, violence, terror, and illness (among other topics). While these presentations will no doubt provoke strong emotions and cause discomfort, we feel that the diverse experiences they promote are also essential to the development of our students’ critical faculties, empathy, and understanding of the world. Rather than warning our students in advance about every potentially uncomfortable topic that they might encounter in the course of their studies, we instead encourage students to meet them head on in the classroom, in rehearsals, and performances, and to engage in civil and compassionate debate about the possibilities and effects of staging difficult knowledge. If you require an accommodation related to your participation in Theatre experiences, please ensure that you share relevant documentation with your course director. Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to achieve excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to perform at their best. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to discuss their accommodation needs as early as
possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course. https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/ Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: 1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities. All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy. 5 ACADEMIC POLICIES / INFORMATION: The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes: York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site. Access/Disability Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants Religious Observance Accommodation Student Code of Conduct Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling “20% Rule” - No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer term. Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles. http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust20121.pdf Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy - The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade. ** The Key Points of York's Policy on Academic Honesty ** York's Senate Policy on Academic Honesty affirms and clarifies the general obligation for all members of the University to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. In particular, the policy: • Recognizes the general responsibility of all faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of students to be mindful of and abide by such standards; • Defines the types of conduct that are regarded as offences against the standards of academic honesty, including plagiarism, cheating, impersonation, and other forms of academic misconduct; • Defines the penalties that can be imposed on a student who is found to have committed plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct; • Outlines the procedures for dealing with students who are accused of violating the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. **Note: a lack of familiarity with the Senate Policy cannot be used as a defence by those accused of academic misconduct. 6 Range of Penalties for Plagiarism When verified, violations of academic honesty may lead to the following penalties – imposed singly or in combination depending on the severity of the offence: • Written disciplinary warning or reprimand • Required completion of an academic honesty assignment • Make-up assignment, examination or rewriting a work, subject to a lowered grade • Lower grade on the assignment, examination or work • Lower grade in the course • Failure in the course • Permanent grade of record • Notation on transcript • Suspension from the University • Expulsion from the University • Withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma or certificate If the offence is a second or subsequent one for the student, or is in combination with another offence, the Senate Policy recommends consideration of a severe penalty. For further information on the penalties for academic misconduct, please see York's Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. HARASSMENT GUIDELINES: These guidelines explain what sexual harassment is, and what it is not, in the context of the Department of Theatre. We also hope to decrease any chance for misunderstanding surrounding activities, such as costume fitting, that are absolutely essential to the teaching and craft of theatre. What should you expect? What are the warning signals that something might be wrong? As we know, theatre reflects life; and life has its share of sex, violence, murder, insanity, cruelty and terror, as well as romance and hilarity. To teach students to evoke an empathetic response in audiences involves the simulation of physical violence and dealing with strong emotions in the classroom, in rehearsals and in performances. Clearly, we cannot avoid these topics, so we meet them head-on in the classroom. The York policy lists "unnecessary touching or patting” as behaviour indicative of sexual harassment. However, in the Department of Theatre, touching routinely happens in acting/directing classes and in costume fittings. In acting, voice and movement classes, students will be touched in the abdomen, diaphragm area, rib cage, chest, spine, back, shoulders, limbs, neck
and head to assist the student in proper breathing, relaxation of tensions, alignment or similar instruction. At no time should a teacher, without the student’s permission, touch those parts of a student’s body that would normally be covered by a two-piece bathing suit. At no time in an acting class will a student be asked to remove intimate apparel. The removal of clothing, however, is integral to a costume fitting. Getting changed into or out of a costume is done in the privacy of a closed fitting room, but then the costume designer and/or the cutter building the costume will have to touch the costume (and therefore the student in the costume) anywhere that it needs fitting. The costume may also include undergarments that are not the student’s (e.g. corsets for women), that require the removal of the student’s own undergarments, and costume undergarments also require fittings. No students will be asked to put on or remove any item of underclothing in the presence of any other person. A danger signal in physical contact could be unnecessarily prolonged touching, or touching body parts not involved in the current teaching. Students who feel uncomfortable about touch from the teacher, staff member or another student have a responsibility to speak to the teacher about opting out, or to discuss the problem with York’s Centre for Human Rights, South Ross, Suite 327, 416-736-5682 / TTY: 416-650-8023, rights@yu. As well as physical contact, there is also psychological contact and gender harassment. Sexual harassment can occur with no physical contact at all: psychological contact can therefore be a more difficult area to ascertain than physical contact since it involves words, intonations or body language. Theatre training must deal with sex. For example, some of the discussions needed in acting classes are of a sexually explicit nature. There is no way for students to fully explore the nature of acting without being honest, to some level, with their personal lives. Gender harassment consists of derogatory or degrading remarks directed towards members of one gender or sexual preference group. These are most often directed at a woman, women in general, or homosexuals. Gender harassment is definitely sexual harassment. If you feel that sexual harassment may have occurred, speak to the teacher, the class rep, your faculty advisor, or to the Centre for Human Rights, South Ross, Suite 327, 416-736-5682 / TTY: 416-650-8023, rights@yorku.ca Sexual assault awareness and resources information is available on the York website and we encourage you to also carefully review this information. You shouldn't ever feel guilty or be made to feel guilty about reporting a problem! DISPUTES: The following steps are the steps to be taken in the event of unresolved issues within the class: - If your class has a tutorial leader or studio instructor, speak to your instructor first. - If unresolved, speak to the Course Director. - If unresolved, contact the Chair of the Department at thechair@yorku.ca. 8 IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY SESSIONAL DATES (where you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more. http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm Manage my Academic record http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/ Last date to drop a fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 6, 2020 Last date to drop a winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: March 12, 2021 Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 5, 2021 DEGREE STATUS – BA AND BFA: All students accepted into the Department of Theatre in the School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD) enter as Specialized Honours BA Theatre-Theatre Studies majors. The first year is a program common to all Theatre students, and offers courses in Acting, Production/Design and Performance Creation & Research. At the end of the first year, there is a selection process (either by audition or interview) to proceed into the various areas of interest. POLICY REGARDING LOSS, DAMAGE AND THEFT OF PERSONAL EQUIPMENT AND BELONGINGS: The School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design at York University will not be held responsible for the loss, damage or theft of personal equipment or any other personal belongings that are left in studios, classrooms, storage areas or any other space within the School. It is each individual’s responsibility to take care of their own property. Under no circumstances will the School incur liability for loss, damage or theft of such property. Please take all reasonable measures to protect your personal belongings. If you do experience loss, damage or theft of personal property, please report it immediately to the Department of Security Services at (416) 736-5333 or extension 33333 from any University phone. ROOM BOOKING POLICY: Rehearsals for mainstage productions take precedence when assigning rooms, followed by faculty assigned work. Personal projects, including playGround, will be considered only if space allows. First-year Theatre majors are not eligible to book studios. Adopt professional standards by agreeing on a rehearsal schedule with group members and by having one group member do the arranging of the space in advance. Please ensure that the floors and walls are clean. All garbage must be removed. Please treat the studios with respect. The studios are available only within the following hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-10:00pm and SatSun 10:00am-6:00pm 9 All spaces must be booked one week in advance and will be accepted only until 4:00pm on Thursday the previous week. Requests will be confirmed Friday by 4:00pm. Requests must be sent by e-mail only to rehearse@yorku.ca Include your full name, student ID, program, brief explanation of what the space will be used for and what kind of space you need (studio / classroom / big / small). Requests must be submitted each week for a room unless special
arrangements have been made. You cannot “claim” a space by writing in your name or the course name in an empty slot on the weekly schedules posted outside each space (exception – Light Lab CFT 153). Spaces must be returned to neutral at the end of each booking session. There will be a picture of what “neutral” is in each studio. The sign-off sheet must be checked and signed at the end of your studio time. If you enter a space and find it not “neutral”, please e-mail rehearse@yorku.ca. Anything left behind in the spaces after your booking will be thrown out. Procedures for use of studios after-hours: These procedures are designed to enhance the safety of authorized students when working alone in one of our studios after-hours - Monday through Friday from 11:00pm to 6:30am, and Saturday/Sunday from 10:00pm to 8:00am. An After-Hours Use form will be completed and emailed to University Security at: scc@yorku.ca; Be advised of the University’s emergency protocols (e.g. contact 911 in the event of a life threatening situation) and University Security’s urgent number (416.736.5333); Contact University Security non-urgent number - 416.650.8000 - upon arrival and departure. SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECTS: All site-specific theatre projects anywhere on campus must be cleared by the course director, York University’s Security Services, and the department or governing body of the proposed site. This request should be made in writing at least three weeks in advance of the date required. All public spaces on Campus require contact with the Office of Temporary Use of University Space - http://tuus.info.yorku.ca/space-room-reservations-forms/ 10 The course director will also need to complete a “Temporary Use of University Space Application and Notification Form” and submit it two weeks in advance of the date required. For ALL site specific work, the course director must send the request to security@yorku.ca outlining where and when the work is to take place. Please note: at no time shall any form of replica, prop, or real weapon (handguns, rifles, shotguns, swords, daggers, knives, etc) be used in any site specific work.

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University