

Theatre in London (TH201)
Tutor: Ellie Yannas



Timeslot: Wednesday 2pm – 4pm

Course Description

In this course students are introduced to the huge variety of performances staged in London, in venues ranging from the National Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe to the small scale, intimate theatres such as the Donmar Warehouse, those dedicated entirely to new writing, like the Royal Court and Soho Theatre, and some new, experimental, non-theatrical spaces.

By studying live performances, students will not only acquire an understanding of the wide repertory of the contemporary London stage, but also will be able to appreciate how theatre space affects each performance and the way in which staging techniques contribute to the overall success of a production. Methods of training, key practitioners, and current trends in performance styles will be explored, linking these with theatre history and the major art movements, in the context of the historical developments of the last 150 years.

Group visits scheduled include the Backstage Tours of the National Theatre and the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, the Globe Theatre Exhibition and Tour, and the Theatre Museum, as well as a number of matinee or evening performances.

Theatre visits and performance analysis will be underpinned by class discussion, reading, some practical workshops and individual research. Students will be guided in the development of a critical vocabulary and methodological framework through which they will be able to express more clearly ideas about theatre and stage language.

TOPICS

Theatre and theatre heritage in London.

Theatre language and conventions

Theatre spaces and their influence on the relationship of the audience to the play.

Theatre practice: key practitioners and their influence on current trends.

Theatre genres.

The social function of theatre.

SUGGESTED READING

Aston A. & Savona G., *Theatre as Sign System*, London: Routledge 1991

Brook Peter., *The Empty Space*, London: Pelican 1972

Counsell C., *Signs of Performance*, London: Routledge 1996

Styan J.L., *Modern drama in theory and practice (Vols 1,2,3)*, Cambridge University Press 1981

Theatre in London Requirements



Theatre in London is a demanding and academically challenging module. It is imperative that students are able to see a certain number of live performances during the semester. Please read the following criteria regarding Theatre in London before confirming your selection of this module.

- 1 Students must give lecturer Ellie Yannas £120 on the first day of class. This money will be used to buy the semester's theatre tickets.

- 2 Theatre in London takes place on a Wednesday afternoon from 2 PM until 4 PM. In addition to this class time, students must also be available on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening to see theatre performances. Generally students will see one performance per week, this will be on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening.

- 3 If you wish to select Theatre in London as one of your first choice modules, please inform us at studyabroad@londonmet.ac.uk. There are 18 places and these will be filled on a first come, first served basis.