

## Theatre in London (TH201)

Tutor: Ellie Yannas

Timeslot: Wednesday 2pm to 4pm

Semester: autumn and spring

Credits: 3 US credits / 15 London Met credits

On this course you'll be introduced to the huge variety of performances staged in London, in venues ranging from theatres in the West End, the National Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe, to small-scale, intimate theatres, dedicated entirely to new writing like the Royal Court and Soho Theatre, and some new, experimental, non-theatrical spaces.

By studying live performances, you'll not only acquire an understanding of the wide repertory of the contemporary London stage, but also 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 major art movements, in the context of the historical developments of the last 150 years.

Group visits scheduled include backstage tours of the National Theatre, the Globe Theatre exhibition and tour, and the V&A Theatre Galleries, 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. You'll be guided in the development of a critical vocabulary and methodological framework through which you'll be able to express ideas about theatre and stage language more clearly.

### Topics

These will include:

- 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 and 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

## Requirements

Theatre in London is a demanding and academically challenging module. It is imperative that you're 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.

- You must give lecturer Ellie Yannas £160 cash on the first day of class. This money will be used to buy the semester's theatre tickets.
- Theatre in London takes place on a Wednesday afternoon from 2pm until 4pm. In addition to this class time, you must also be available on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening to see theatre performances. Generally you will see one performance per week.

Please note that Theatre in London is a very popular class and fills up quickly. We have 18 spaces and allocate them in order of receipt of module registration forms (MRFs). Submit your MRF as early as possible in order to reserve a place!