UNIT ONE:
THEATRICAL STYLES OF THE PRE-MODERN ERA

In this unit students will:

- Focus on the application of acting and other stagecraft in relation to the theatrical styles of the pre-modern era working with playscripts written prior to the 1880s, in both their written form and in performance.
- Study theatrical and performance analysis and apply these skills to analysing a play from the pre-modern era in performance.
- Periods from the pre-modern era of theatre include:

  Ancient Greek Theatre, Roman Theatre, Liturgical drama such as morality/miracle/mystery plays, Italian theatre & Commedia Dell’Arte, Elizabethan & Shakespearean theatre, Restoration comedies & dramas, Neoclassical theatre, Spanish & French theatre, non-Western theatre such as Beijing Opera, and Japanese Noh theatre, Bunraku & Kabuki

Stagecraft

Acting, costume, direction, dramaturgy, lighting design & operation, make-up, multimedia, properties, promotion (including publicity), set design & construction, sound design & operation and stage management.

Area of Study: One

OUTCOME 1: PRE-MODERN THEATRE

On completion of this unit students should be able to identify & describe the distinguishing features of playscripts from the pre-modern era of at least three distinct theatrical periods prior to the 1880s. Students learn about contexts, cultural origins, and theatrical styles, use of stagecraft and performance possibilities. Through practical workshops and the exploration of pre-modern playscripts students gain knowledge of how these periods shaped & contributed to the world of pre-modern theatre.

Task: Digital Timeline – The Evolution of Comedy

Create a Comedy Timeline of the pre-modern era from Ancient Greece to the styles of European Comedy leading up to the 1880s.
Area of Study: Two

OUTCOME 2: INTERPRETING PLAYSCRIPTS

On completion of this unit students will employ Acting & other stagecraft to interpret playscripts from at least three distinct theatrical periods of the pre-modern era by a performance to an audience.

Students learn how the theatrical styles & context of the pre-modern playscripts affects/informs the use of acting and stagecraft and they also learn about the processes of developing character, the effect an audience has on acting and the use of acting skills to enhance text interpretations.

Task: Performance to an Audience

Employing Acting & other stagecraft students interpret, design, rehearse and present scene(s) extracts from three distinct playscripts of the pre-modern era to an audience, utilising theatrical styles in keeping with the selected text(s).

Area of Study: Three

OUTCOME 3: ANALYSING A PLAY IN PERFORMANCE

On completion of this unit students should be able to analyse a performance of a playscript from the pre-modern era.

Students explore the nature of theatrical analysis including theatrical styles, audience perspective, acting skills, use of stagecraft and the ways in which the contexts of a playscript have been interpreted through performance.

The play will be chosen either from the VCAA Unit 3 Theatre Studies Playlist for 2013 or selected by the teacher early in term 1.

Task: Analyse a Play Performance

Students will attend a performance of a pre-modern playscript, analysing the acting techniques, use of stagecraft & theatrical styles; consider how all of these contributed to how the audience constructed meaning from the play.

The task will be written and may take the form of the following:

- Short Answer Questions
- Extended Essay
- Test
- Digital Presentation File
UNIT TWO:

THEATRICAL STYLES OF THE MODERN ERA

In this unit students will:

- Focus on the application of acting and other stagecraft in relation to the theatrical styles of the modern era working with playscripts written from the 1880s to the present day, in both their written form and in performance.
- Study theatrical and performance analysis and apply these skills to analysing a play from the pre-modern era in performance.
- Periods from the modern era of theatre include:
  - Naturalism/Realism, Expressionism, Theatre of the Absurd, Epic Theatre, physical theatre, political theatre, feminist theatre, and Eclectic theatre (contemporary theatre that crosses traditional boundaries).

- Modern theatre has been influenced by the following practitioners:
  - Ibsen, Strindberg, Stanislavsky, Chekhov, Brecht, Jarry, Pinter, Beckett, Anouilh, Grotowski, Artaud, Craig, Churchill, Hewitt, Kane, Cusack and Rayson

Area of Study: One

OUTCOME 1: MODERN THEATRE

On completion of this unit students should be able to identify & describe the distinguishing features of playscripts from the modern era, of at least three distinct theatrical periods. Students learn about contexts, cultural origins, and theatrical styles, use of stagecraft and performance possibilities. Through practical workshops and the exploration of modern playscripts students gain knowledge of how these periods shaped & contributed to the world of modern theatre.

Task: Digital Theatre History File

Create a Theatre History File that focusses on:
- the evolution and use of two areas of stagecraft in the modern era
- a timeline of major developments & theatrical styles of the modern era
- key works and major practitioners of the modern era
Area of Study: Two

OUTCOME 2: INTERPRETATION THROUGH STAGECRAFT

On completion of this unit students will apply stagecraft to realise playscripts from at least three distinct theatrical movements of the modern era by a performance to an audience.

Students learn how the theatrical styles & context of the modern playscripts affects/informs the use of stagecraft and consider the ways the application of stagecraft is itself shaped by the contexts of the playscripts. By working collaboratively students gain an understanding of how stagecraft is applied in a production process to interpret playscripts.

Task: Application of Stagecraft

Employing stagecraft students interpret and/or recontextualise, design, rehearse and present scene(s) excerpts from a play(s) of the modern era to an audience.

Area of Study: Three

OUTCOME 3: ANALYSING A PLAY IN PERFORMANCE

On completion of this unit students should be able to analyse and evaluate stagecraft in a professional performance of a playscript from the modern era.

Students explore the nature of theatrical analysis and production evaluation including the application of stagecraft and its effect on an audience. The play will be chosen either from the VCAA Unit 4 Theatre Studies Playlist for 2013 or selected by the teacher early in term 3.

Task: Analyse a Play Performance

Students will attend a performance of a pre-modern playscript, analysing the acting techniques, use of stagecraft & theatrical styles; consider how all of these contributed to how the audience constructed meaning from the play.

The task will be written and may take the form of the following:

- Short Answer Questions
- Extended Essay
- Test
- Digital Presentation File
HOLIDAY HOMEWORK – Part #1

**Stagecraft Investigation**  **PowerPoint and/or Keynote Presentation**

Students are expected to choose two areas of stagecraft, (not including acting) and investigate the history & development of their chosen forms and how they are currently used in contemporary theatrical design and application. Detailed notes and information is required and well as visual and/or audio representations of examples of how the stagecraft is being used on-stage.

HOLIDAY HOMEWORK – Part #2

**Performance Review - Written**

Students are required to attend a ‘live performance’ over the holiday period and write an Analysis & Evaluation of the presentation of no less than 750 words. The analysis and evaluation should be considered through the use of the key stagecraft elements of acting (performance), costume, make-up, multimedia, lighting, sound and set.

Special consideration should be made concerning the effectiveness of the use of acting/performing and stagecraft and its impact on the audience.

Welcome to Theatre Studies 2013

Steve Irving

Learning Area Leader – Media / Drama

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the course or the Holiday Homework.

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