Theatre, History, Culture II: 
Romantics, Realists, and Revolutionaries

Theatre Arts 102
Cary Mazer
Spring 2018

Mazer: 519 Annenberg Center, 3-2659; cmazer@english.upenn.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

January 11: Introduction

[REQUIRED THEATREGOING: A Doll House, by Henrik Ibsen, Arden Theatre Company, Jan. 11- Feb. 25 (Date of possible group theatre excursion to be determined.)]

January 16: Romanticism:
  Friedrich Schiller, “The Pathetic” (Canvas), Victor Hugo, “Preface to Cromwell” (Canvas).

[Jan. 18: TBA]

January 23: Romanticism (cont.):
  Victor Hugo, The King Amuses Himself (Canvas).

January 25: Pictorial Realism:

January 30: Domestic Realism:
  T.W. Robertson, Caste (Canvas).

February 1: Realism:
library with your Pennkey; if you’d prefer to buy a copy, get the Fjelde translation in Ibsen, *Four Plays.*); Gay Gibson Cima, “Discovering Signs: the Emergence of the Critical Actor in Ibsen” (Canvas); watch the video of the Young Vic production, directed by Carrie Cracknell (only after you have read the play), at https://proxy.library.upenn.edu:4873/education/collections/digital-theatre/a-dolls-house).

February 6: Realist Acting:

February 8: Realism (cont.):
Anton Chekhov, *The Seagull.* (The Hampton translation (http://proxy.library.upenn.edu:4277/plays/the-seagull-trans-hampton-id-113557/do-9780571293520-div-00000008) and Hare adaptation are in Drama Online; if you’re looking to buy an American version, get Carnicke, *Four Plays and Three Jokes.*)

[Theatre Arts Program/Writer’s House:  Penn Plays Project: workshop/reading of *Nighthawks Cafe,* by Seung Hyun Chung, 7PM Feb 8, Bruce Montgomery Theatre.]

[February 13: First take-home assignment due.]


February 15: The Reaction Against Realism:

February 20: Theatre of Cruelty:

February 22: Bertolt Brecht:

February 27: Brecht (cont.):
The Caucasian Chalk Circle. (Use the Stern, Stern, and Auden version, Drama Online (http://proxy.library.upenn.edu:4277/plays/the-caucasian-chalk-circle-trans-j-stern-t-stern-auden iid-128372/do-9781408162965-div-00000027)

March 1: American Expressionism:
Eugene O’Neill, “A Manifesto on Masks” (Canvas); Sophie Treadwell, Machinal.

[SPRING BREAK]

March 13: American Political Theory (and realism):
Helen Krich Chinoy, “The Poetics of Politics: Some Notes on Style and Craft in the Theatre of the Thirties” (Canvas); Clifford Odets, Waiting for Lefty (Canvas).

March 15: American Stanislavskianism:

March 20: Theatre of the Absurd.

[REQUIRED THEATREGOING: 1984, Adapted from the novel by George Orwell, Theatre Arts Program, directed by James Schlatter, Bruce Montgomery Theatre, March 21-24, 2018.]

March 27: Discussion of 1984.

March 29: Poor Theatre/Holy Theatre:

April 1: 60s/70s:
Julian Beck, “Meditations” and “Questions” from The Life of the Theatre (Canvas), Richard Schechner, “On Environmental Design” (Canvas), Joseph Chaikin, Chapter I from The Presence of the Actor (Canvas).

April 3: Gender and Theatre:

April 5: Gender and Drama:
Caryl Churchill, *Cloud Nine* (Drama Online
http://proxy.library.upenn.edu:4277/plays/cloud-nine-iid-14838/do-9781408162934-div-00000109); Rhonda Blair, “‘Not … but’/‘Not-not-me’: Musings on Cross-Gender Performance” (Canvas).

April 10: Solo Performance:

**[April 12: Second take-home assignment due]**

April 12: Post-Dramatic Theatre:

April 17: New Acting Theory:

**[REQUIRED THEATREGOING: Refined, by Danielle Bainbridge, Theatre Arts Program, week of April 16 (exact date TBA).]**

April 19: Theatre of Images:
Readings to be announced.

April 24: catch-up and conclusions

There will be TWO take-home essay assignments (approximately 5 pages), plus a final term paper (approximately 10-12 pages), due by NOON on TUESDAY, May 1. The topic for the final term paper must MUST BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE, in person, by April 20.

**Grading Breakdown:**
Preparation and Participation: 20%
First take-home assignment: 20%
Second take-home assignment: 20%
Final Paper: 40%
Attendance in class is crucial; CHRONIC ABSENCE OR LATENESS WILL BE COUNTED AGAINST YOU.

Please familiarize yourself with the rules of academic integrity, at www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html. I will rigorously pursue violations of the code.

Purchase the following book at a bookstore or on Amazon:

- Robert Leach, *Makers of Modern Theatre*
- Sophie Treadwell, *Machinal*
- Samuel Beckett, *Endgame*
- Suzan-Lori Parks, *The America Play*
- Sarah Kane, *4.48 Psychosis*

If you prefer American translations of some of the plays we are reading, purchase:

- Henrik Ibsen, trans. Fjelde, *Four Plays*
- Anton Chekhov, trans. Carnicke, *Four Plays and Three Jokes*

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For those interested in keeping track of Theatre Arts Program activities and classes (including information on performance and work opportunities), visit our website: www.sas.upenn.edu/theatrearts/