

IEI Media Playwriting and Theatrical Design Residency Syllabus

July 2014, Monday-Thursday and some Friday mornings

Professors: Kimberley Lynne with Terri Ciofalo, Nessa O'Mahony and teaching assistant Rachel Wooley

Course Description

In this cultural immersion intensive, students travel to Northern Ireland and workshop theatrical writing and design, creating either a ten-minute short play, designs for two new plays, and/or a short monologue, to be presented at the John Hewitt International Festival in Armagh at the course end. Classes will focus on the craft of dramatic writing, dramaturgy and performance, including acting and improvisation with an exploration of theatrical design and sense of place. Students will examine Irish culture, ranging from museums to libraries to theatre, drawing their work from the local stories. The University of Baltimore alums will perform their work as part of Spotlight UB's fall season and the Maryland Irish Festival.

Course objectives and learning outcomes:

- write and perform original ten-minute play (or for theatrical design students, a monologue)
- create theatrical designs for two of the ten-minute plays (theatrical design students only)
- habit of daily journal: free-writing, visual journaling and blog
- understand dramatic writing with a focus on literary analysis of Irish plays
- appreciation of Irish history and culture
- explore the John Hewitt International Festival (JHISS)
- develop as theatrical artists and communicators

Grading: students must complete the following to receive IEI certificate:

- weekly assignments, performance and class participation
- journal/blog: students free-write in journal and blog
<http://armaghproject2014.wordpress.com>
- final project: ten-minute play performance or a monologue (the theatrical design students will also design two of the developed plays). All students will perform and present work at the JHISS.

Deliverables:

- Reading: Martin Lynch's *The History of the Troubles According to My Da*, Sean O'Casey's *The Shadow of a Gunman*, Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Martin McDonagh's *Beauty Queen of Leenane*, John Millington Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*, and *Fallen* by Lia Mills. Please bring copies with you; *Troubles* is scanned in Dropbox.
- Assignments: arc-line, draft, final play, some literary criticism, blog assignments, design assignments, journal with free-writes and sketches

Final play parameters: 10-minutes in length, no more than five characters, no props or costumes besides maybe two representational objects, and no fights.

Final design parameters: sketches, photos and/or collages representing scenic, costume and lighting design concepts for two of the 10-minute plays. A model is not required. Audio design is optional.

Reflect Northern Ireland and keep in mind the 2014 JHISS theme: *Regionalism: The Last Chance? Local Identity in a Shrinking World*

Required texts and supplies for all students:

- Texts: Gunman, Dancing, Playboy, Beauty Queen, and Fallen
- Journal can be any notebook
- Flash drive and laptop
- Black performance clothes (shoes, pants or skirt, t-shirt or other top)

Additional texts and supplies for Design Students:

- Additional Text: *From Page to Stage: How Theatre Designers Make Connections Between Scripts and Images* by Rosemary Ingham
- Drawing Pad (you can purchase this in Armagh but selection is limited)
- Drawing Pencils regular and colored (limited options available in Armagh)

Course schedule

- Mix of workshop, lecture and discussion, group work, community exploration, and writing/design time
- SUBJECT TO CHANGE: cultural events are still evolving and will onsite. Daily schedules will be posted on the blog. Some cultural events are optional due to cost. Students are expected to participate in a JHISS workshop in poetry, prose, memoir, screen writing or creative reading, free of charge.
- Playwriting students and theatrical design students will have class together. Journalism students will have class separately but will join writing students for history and cultural classes. All students will read in play readings and perform at the Festival.
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Date	Agenda	Work due on that class
4 July	Travel	
5 July, Saturday	10:00 Orientation at hostel blog and syllabus discussion 13:00 Walking tour of Armagh	Read Shadow of a Gunman
6 July, Sunday	10:00 Navan Fort tour 15:00-17:00 Combined playwriting and theatrical design class: free-write, differences in forms	Blog on first experiences & impressions
7 July, Monday	10:00-11:30 History of NI with Nessa 13:00-15:00 Irish & Local Studies Library 16:00-18:00 Brainstorm plot ideas. Structural & thematic analysis of Gunman	Blog on brainstorm premises. Visual journaling: Texture <i>Designers: Read Lughnasa, Read Page to Stage Chapters 1 & 2</i>

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8 July, Tuesday	10-12:00 Combined theatrical design/playwriting class sense of place with plot and character 13:00-17:00 combination class: cluster and workshop premises 18:00 Reading Shadow of a Gunman	Journal arc-line ideas. Read The History of the Troubles Blog: visual journaling: patterns
9 July, Wednesday	10:00-12:00 class: brainstorm and develop arc-lines. Tone in History. 13:00-16:00 arc-lines into dialogue rules of improvisation 19:00 Reading of The History of The Troubles	Arc-line draft Blog: JHISS theme Sketch in journal a set for Gunman or History post it <i>Designers: Read Page to Stage Chapter 3</i>
10 July, Thursday	10:00-12:00 class - Playwrights: further develop arc lines 10:00-12:00 workshop - Designers: historical research 13:00-15:30 Armagh Museum 16:00 combined class: emotional research	Blog: sketches or photos that could be Shadow or Troubles set
11 July, Friday	9:00 travel to Dublin See Dublin Itinerary: bridge tour, Abbey Theatre tour, and traditional music	Blog: museum visual <i>Designers: Read Page to Stage Chapters 4 and 5</i>
12 July, Saturday	10:00 Dublin Writers at Writers Centre Nessa 11:30 playwriting and multimedia 14:00 blogging with June Caldwell and introduction to Friel Abbey Theatre, Aristocrats	Visual journal Blog: Dublin impressions Read Playboy
13 July, Sunday	Free Day in Dublin	Blog: Dublin images

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14 July, Monday	10:00 playwriting with Kimberley 11:00 Nessa, Writing Up Dublin 13-14:00 Lia Mills, Author Fallen Travel to Armagh	Blog: nationality Reading: <i>Fallen</i> by Lia Mills <i>Designers: Read Page to Stage Chapter 6</i>
15 July, Tuesday, hostel	10:00-12:00 workshop draft plays and monologues, discuss character in Playboy 13:00-16:00 individual meetings/casting 18:00 Reading of The Playboy of the Western World	First draft of play or monologue due, 8:30 <i>Designers: costume/character sketches due for Lughnasa</i> Blog: article on Lynch & questions
16 July, Wednesday	10:00-12:00 acting and voice, all students 13:00-16:00 round robin reading of plays, monologues and journalism work	Revised drafts of plays due, 10:00 Blog: monologue
17 July, Thursday	10:00-12:00 fixes TBA 14:00, casting and design meetings	Blog: read NI newspaper and blog about an article Revisions due <i>Designers: Read Page to Stage Chapter 7</i>
18 July, Friday	9:00, Travel to Belfast 12:00, Martin Lynch lunch, John Hewitt 15:00, Free time until Monday, home to Armagh or travel up the coast	Read Lughnasa Blog: character study of interesting person
19-20 July	WEEKEND Suggestion: Antrim coast	Actor scripts due Monday <i>Designers: Lughnasa set design and revised costume design sketches/collages due Monday</i>
21 July, Monday	10:00 Reviewing the Rehearsal Process - Terri 11:00 Discuss Lughnasa & designs and senryu 13:00 workshop readings	Actors Script due 10:00 in Dropbox Read Beauty Queen and blog on character analysis

Date	Agenda	Work due on that class
22 July, Tuesday	10:00-13:00 play revisions workshop (pacing and beats) and design meetings 18:00 Reading & discussion of Beauty Queen	Chose events for Festival Blog senryu exercise Any revisions <i>Designers: Preliminary designs due</i>
23 July, Wednesday	13:00-16:00 and 18-21:00 Rehearsals with breaks	Revised Actors Script due 10 Blog: favorite play <i>Designers: Read Page to Stage Chapter 8</i>
24 July, Thursday	10:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00 rehearsal with breaks	Script Revisions due as needed Blog: audience
25 July, Friday	9:00-12:00 Rehearsal run 13:00-15:00 run through 15:00 free time begins until Monday	Script Revisions due as needed Blog: rehearsal process <i>Designers: Revised designs due</i>
26-27 July	WEEKEND: SUGGESTION County Meath	Final scripts due Monday 28
28 July, Monday	14:15-15:45 Kimberley teaches playwriting workshop at Festival; students attend Festival. 17:30 Studio Theatre rehearsal	Blog about Armagh Final scripts due <i>Designers: Final Designs due projects and prepare for presentation</i>
29 July, Tuesday	14:15-15:45 Festival workshops 17:30 Studio Theatre run through	Blog on Festival
30 July, Wednesday	16:15-18:15 performance at JHISS, followed by talk back and reception	Blog on Festival workshops
31 July, Thursday	14:15-15:45 festival workshops	Blog on performance day
1 August, Friday	JHISS creative writing Workshop performances	Blog: free
2 August	Final class and closing dinner	Blog: final reflections
3 August	Travel transport to Dublin airport	
1 October	Spotlight UB performance in Baltimore	
9 Nov	Maryland Irish Festival	