

# Invitation to Theatre: Fall 2015

**With Richard Digby Day**

## **Instructors**

Richard Digby Day with frequent guest speakers and teachers.

## **What will you learn?**

From this course you will get an introduction and overview of a variety of aspects of European Theatre. Inevitably, the course also focuses on related elements including history, literature and art. In this semester we are seeing two plays with a strong background of classical music. In attending performances on a regular basis you should begin to develop a lively response to a variety of styles, format and theatre spaces. You will acquire a vocabulary of informed critical responses to what you see. Above all, you will find theatre enjoyable! Though don't expect to like everything equally. What you learn from this course will be direct proportion to the effort and energy you put into it!

## **Assignments and Grading**

There is no fixed reading for this course. Frequently you will be given or referred to materials that you will be expected to read and discuss. Prior to many theatre visits you will be given a questionnaire which must be completed and handed in by the time and date indicated.

At the end of the semester there will be a final examination consisting of short answers to 30 questions and a short verbal report on a subject to be arranged through discussion with RDD.

## **Grade Allocation**

Questionnaires: 30%

Class Participation: 20%

Practical Class Participation: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

## **Notes**

- You are expected to attend every class. Serious illness or emergency are the only acceptable excuses for lateness or absence.
- Theatre visits and cultural excursions (including day trips) are part of the course and therefore mandatory.
- Participation is a crucial element of all classes. It is expected that you will actively contribute during every class session. It is a requirement that every member of the class is respectful of the opinion of their classmates.
- No laptops; Please bring a note book and pencil/pen for essential note taking.
- The course follows academic policies (including the grading systems as well as academic integrity policy) as outlined in Fordham University's Undergraduate Bulletin. (<http://www.fordham.edu/undergraduatebulletin>)

## Theatre Etiquette:

Basic rules of good behaviour and politeness apply:

- Be in your assigned seats at least five minutes before the performance begins; most British theatres do not admit latecomers.
- Do not fidget, even if the play is deadly, absolutely no talking or whispering during the performance
- Make certain your mobile phone is turned off (not on silent). The bright LED light is as great an irritation as sound to fellow audience members
- No chewing, eating or drinking of any kind during performance
- Be sure to go to the lavatory BEFORE the performance (and/or during any interval). Once the lights go down, it is most disruptive and rude to leave your seat.
- Do not take large bags or backpacks to any theatre as many do not have a cloakroom

You'll be pleased to know:

*There is no dress code – Just clean and tidy.*

And don't forget: the theatre demands a lively and attentive audience – it is not like TV!

In the intervals [intermissions] you are expected to leave your seat and explore the theatre space, not consult your phone, etc!

# Invitation to Theatre: Fall 2015 – Shaw Group

With Richard Digby Day

This group meets on Mondays at 4:30pm PROMPT!

Classes will last 3 hours [with a break] except on those days when there is a theatre performance when the class will end at 6pm; this will allow students time to get to the performance and have a snack before it begins.

## Shaw Group Schedule

<i>September 7<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	Introduction: A theatre vocabulary: A one person performance
<i>September 14<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	How theatre reached Australia: suspending your disbelief.
	<b>THEATRE VISIT:</b> Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker at Olivier Theatre at the National Theatre;
<i>September 21<sup>st</sup> 2015</i>	Shakespeare's problem plays
<i>September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015</i>	<b>THEATRE VISIT:</b> Measure for Measure at Shakespeare's Globe
<i>September 28<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	A class about William Shakespeare
<i>October 5<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	<b>THEATRE VISIT:</b> Jane Eyre at National Theatre
<i>October 6<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	Adapting material for the stage or screen
<i>October 19<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	<b>THEATRE VISIT:</b> Three Days in the Country at National Theatre
<i>October 20<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	Meet at the Brompton Road Entrance of the Victoria & Albert Museum
<i>October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015</i>	There will be a mandatory all day visit to Stratford-Upon-Avon and its surroundings followed by a performance of King Henry V at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre
<i>October 26<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	<b>THEATRE VISIT:</b> Photograph 51 at Noel Coward Theatre
<i>October 27<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	Meet at the National Portrait Gallery, Waterloo Place
<i>November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015</i>	A look into ballet: Please note there will be some practical work in this class.
<i>November 9<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	<b>THEATRE VISIT:</b> The Moderate Soprano at Hampstead Theatre
<i>November 10<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	A look at the opera [Part 1]
<i>November 16<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	<b>THEATRE VISIT:</b> Farinelli and the King at the Duke of York Theatre
<i>November 17<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	A look at the opera [part 2]
<i>November 24<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	Practical class led by RDD and Sheila Irwin
<i>December 1<sup>st</sup> 2015</i>	Practical class led by RDD and Sheila Irwin
<i>Week of December 7<sup>th</sup> 2015</i>	Final Test and Individual Presentations

