

University of Roehampton
International Summer School

School of Arts

Module Title: Introduction to the London Stage

Module Code: DRA020C199H

Course Rationale

This course is designed to introduce you to the ways in which London shaped and is shaped by a range of theatre and performance.

During the course we will read plays by a range of playwrights, will attend performances of relevant shows and exhibitions, view video clips of performances and tour relevant spaces in London. The course will be divided around themes regarding relevant 20th and 21st century performance with a focus on contemporary work. There will be discussion around text, directing, dramaturgy, acting and scenography for each performance.

Each week will be structured around a specific theme and each day will be an opportunity to explore relevant readings and ideas according to performances. The sessions will primarily be discussion based.

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will have:

- A working understanding of a range of contemporary performance work and a critical approach to analyzing and discussing performance, especially in relation to how different methods shape productions.
- An understanding of some of the modes through which performances relate to contemporary moments, with a focus on social and political context.

Assessment

50% essay (2000 words)

50% in-class presentation

Course Readings:

Plays:

Top Girls by Caryl Churchill

Europe by David Greig

Further Readings:

Butler, Judith *Gender Trouble*, Ch1 Subjects of Sex, Gender and Desire

Skantze, P.A. *Itinerant Spectator*

Ubersfeld, Anne *The Pleasure of the Spectator*

Pavis Questionnaire