Course Aims

This one day course is designed to support secondary teachers in the delivery of a key component of the Higher Drama syllabus.

Participation in the course should:
- Provide an introduction to the authorial intentions and work of a contemporary Scottish playwright, discovering their inspirations and writing process
- Offer teachers a range of dramatic conventions, strategies and approaches designed to improve students understanding of dramatic text and character
- Support teachers looking to extend their own repertoire of teaching options
- Develop knowledge of contemporary Scottish plays and playwrights which can be used to teach at Higher Drama level.

Venue, Date and Cost

School of Drama, RSAMD
100 Renfrew Street
Glasgow G2 3DB

Tuesday 6th September 2011
10am to 8pm
£120

Course Content

The course will begin with an introduction from Fiona Sturgeon Shea, Creative Director of Playwrights' Studio, Scotland. Fiona will give a brief context to the programme, discuss a number of contemporary Scottish plays and playwrights and outline the work of Playwrights' Studio, Scotland.

Following this, the acclaimed Scottish playwright Davey Anderson will discuss the process of writing a play, giving particular insight to the background, development and authorial intentions of Blackout (Winner of the Arches Brick Award 2010, ThickSkin Theatre's production, Edinburgh Fringe).

Finally, the preparatory and creative processes of developing and presenting Scottish contemporary work will be explored with theatre director, Amanda Gaughan.

The workshop will explore how research and analytical tools can be used to explore dramatic structure and the world of the play. This will include examining the creative process from page to stage; looking at various approaches to the rehearsal process and the realisation of text in performance.

The themes, characters and text of Blackout will be used as an example in these activities, but participants will be able to apply processes learned on the course when working with other play texts.
Course Leader

Amanda Gaughan, Director
Director Amanda Gaughan gained a MA distinction in Theatre Directing from the RSAMD and directed Blackout by Davey Anderson with RSAMD Dramaworks.

She recently produced On the Verge, a new festival at the Arches Theatre comprising sixteen new works by emergent artists from the RSAMD. She recently directed Fit for a King by Phil Spencer for the New Works, New Worlds festival at the Arches and One man’s junk is another man’s treasure, a new opera with and for young people by Little Larks Company at the Tramway Theatre in July 2010.

Her other directing credits include working with playwright Douglas Maxwell to develop and direct the work-in-progress Fever Dream: Southside which toured to the Tron, the Traverse and London Hampstead Theatres, Blow me Beautiful by Gabrielle Quigley and Vicki Liddel with Stellar Quines Theatre Company and Ready or Not, a drugs education performance with PACE Theatre Company at the SECC, Glasgow and AECC, Aberdeen.

Amanda has worked extensively in theatre in education and has written and directed several touring works for children and teenage audiences.

Amanda is currently Trainee Director at the Citizens’ Theatre, Glasgow.

Tutor

Davey Anderson, Playwright
Davey graduated from the University of Glasgow in 2002 and has since worked as a playwright, director and musical director. He is currently Associate Playwright for Playwrights’ Studio, Scotland.

His work as Playwright/Director includes Snuff (Arches Theatre, Winner of the Arches Award for Stage Directors, runner up Meyer-Whitworth Award), Rupture (NTS & Traverse Theatre), Blackout (National Theatre New Connections & Citizens Theatre Young Company) and Mixter Maxter (NTS & St Magnus Festival, Orkney, co-written and co-directed with Liam Hurley).

Davey’s other plays include Wired (Òran Mór), Liar (TAG & Sounds of Progress, Best Show for Children and Young People, Critics’ Award for Theatre in Scotland), Outspoken (TAG & Citizens Theatre), Zorro (Visible Fictions & Traverse Theatre), Clutter Keeps Company (Birds of Paradise) and Playback (Ankur Productions).

His work as Musical Director/Composer includes Peter Pan (NTS & Barbican), Be Near Me (NTS & Donmar Warehouse), Oresteia (Lazzi Experimental Arts Unit & Cumbernauld Theatre), Weans in the Wood, Aladdie and Cinderella (Tron Theatre).

As Associate Director he collaborated with New York based company The T.E.A.M. on Architecting (Co-Production with NTS) and created music for Black Watch (NTS, world tour). He was Director in Residence with the National Theatre of Scotland 2006-07.

Davey has also facilitated writing, drama and/or music workshops for Promote YT, Ankur, Dancebase, the Traverse, NTS, Scottish Youth Theatre, TAG, Sounds of Progress, Grey Coast, QMU and the University of Glasgow.
Your Academy

The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama is in central Glasgow, Scotland, one of the most vibrant and dynamic cities in Europe.

We welcome students from fifty different countries and offer undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across music, dance, musical theatre, technical and production arts and digital film and television.

The Academy presented more than 450 events in 2009/10 involving students, staff and visiting artists, making the Academy one of the busiest arts venues in the United Kingdom.

Access to the Academy

The Academy is committed to widening access to the performing and production arts.

The majority of our courses are designed to allow students to explore the performance and production arts fully and enable students of differing abilities the opportunity to grow and develop through participation in the arts.

All courses are held at the Academy which is an accessible building with a lift, accessible toilets and accessible teaching spaces.

Refreshments

The Academy’s café-bar is run by Where the Monkey Sleeps and offers a selection of hot and cold snacks. A fully-licensed bar operates on performance evenings. The café-bar is open to the public throughout normal Academy hours.

Playwrights' Studio, Scotland

Playwrights’ Studio, Scotland develop and celebrate the exceptional talents and achievements of Scotland’s diverse playwrights with sustained, good quality support, whatever stage a writer is at in their career.

We work to engage the people of Scotland directly with new playwriting and raise the standard of plays for presentation to the public.

Activities include workshops, development programs, a monthly e-bulletin, a plays library and much more. Playwrights’ Studio, Scotland also acts as an advocate for Scotland’s playwrights both within the UK and abroad.

Fiona Sturgeon Shea is Creative Director for Playwrights’ Studio, Scotland. She has worked for several important theatre companies in England and Scotland, including the Traverse Theatre, the Citizens Theatre, the Royal Lyceum Theatre and the Orange Tree Theatre. She recently held posts in the public sector with the Scottish Arts Council and the Scottish Government/National Health Service.

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