



Instructor: Lawrence Switzky

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Course Number: ENG342H5S

Course Title: Contemporary Drama

Course Description: Reading, screening, and staging of new dramatic writing in the Anglophone world from the last twenty years. Topics will include documentary and verbatim theatre; plays as language machines and platforms to invent new languages; the treatment of mental illness in drama; ancient myths updated for the modern world; formalist theatre; plays about the limits of sexual toleration; collage, painting and music as models for spoken (or sung) plays; and the influence of cyber-culture and globalization on dramatic structure and content. Plays will be selected from recent work by Edward Albee, Jez Butterworth, Sheila Callaghan, Martin Crimp, Tim Crouch, Michael Frayn, Michael Healey, Tony Kushner, Martin McDonagh, Charles Mee, Sarah Ruhl, Paula Vogel, Enda Walsh, Mac Wellman and Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt. Manifestoes and performance texts will be selected from work by Anne Bogart, Tim Etchells/Forced Entertainment, Richard Foreman, Spalding Gray and Robert Wilson.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: Doug Wright, *I Am My Own Wife*; Jez Butterworth, *Jerusalem*; Paula Vogel, *How I Learned to Drive*

Method of Instruction: Lectures, Screenings, Discussions, Performances

Method of Evaluation: Midterm (25%); Performance Project (20%); Attendance and Participation (20%); Final Paper (35%)