BRST 176b

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Office hours: Mondays and Thursdays after class

This course in contemporary drama is organized around plays being produced in London during the term. The course functions as an introduction to the study of drama, acquainting students with the critical terminology and interpretive questions that are particular to this genre. (Issues we might explore together include spatial aesthetics, ways of telling stories on the stage, the relationship between actor and audience, styles of acting and other aspects of theatrical mimesis, the re-interpretation of old plays, and the function of theater in society.) Students will see a play each week, as detailed in the working schedule below. They will also be responsible for a significant amount of writing over the course of the semester, mostly in the form of theater reviews. Reviews are to be posted on our Wordpress site (http://wordpress.commons.yale.edu/brst176_spring2010) for all to peruse. Although we will not be reading full texts of the plays we see together, students are welcome to purchase them and refer to them if they wish. There will be some supplementary readings, distributed by photocopy or electronically.

Week 1
M 1/18
The Pitmen Painters
by Lee Hall
The National Theater, 7:15

Th 1/21
Discussion of The Pitmen Painters

Week 2
M 1/25
Rope
by Ralph Hamilton
The Almeida Theatre, 7:15

Th 1/28
Discussion of Rope

Week 3
W 2/3
Red
by John Logan
The Donmar Warehouse, 7:15

Th 2/4
Discussion of Red

Week 4
W 2/10
Misanthrope
by Molière (adapted by Martin Crimp)
The Comedy Theatre, 7:15

Th 2/11
Discussion of Misanthrope

Week 5
T 2/16
Jerusalem
Week 6

Th 2/18
Discussion of *Jerusalem*

T 2/23
*Eranon*
by Lucy Prebble
The Noel Coward Theatre, 7:15

Th 2/25
Discussion of *Eranon*

Week 7

Week 8

W 3/10
*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
by William Shakespeare
The Rose Theatre, Kingston, 7:15

Th 3/11
Discussion of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*

Week 9

Week 10

M 3/22
*London Assurance*
by Dion Boucicault
The National Theatre, 7:15

Th 3/25
Discussion of *London Assurance*

Week 11

W 3/31
*The Habit of Art*
by Alan Bennett
The National Theatre, 7:15

Th 4/1
Discussion of *The Habit of Art*

Week 12

W 4/7
*The White Guard*
by Mikhail Bulgakov (adapted by Andrew Upton)
The National Theatre, 7:15

Th 4/8
Discussion of *The White Guard*

Week 14

Th 4/22
Discussion of the text of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth?*

F 4/23
*Macbeth?*
by William Shakespeare
Shakespeare’s Globe

Week 15

Final Exam/Project