

**DIRECTING – Eng 180 (4 credits) & DIRECTING LAB – Eng 180a**  
**CRNs: 46501 & 46516**

**Classes start:** Monday, September 10

**Class times:** Mondays, 2pm - 4.40pm

**Lab Times:** Wednesdays, 3.25pm - 4.40pm

**Class & Lab location:** Todd Theatre Lobby (Class) / Drama House (Labs)

**Instructor:** Nigel Maister

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**SOME PRELIMINARY INFORMATION:**

**Aims:** DIRECTING will focus on introductory directing techniques for aspiring directors. The course will try to explore the nature of the theatrical event, and investigate the nature of conceptualization, visualization, text analysis, action and design as they pertain to the director's craft.

**Attendance:** Attending class punctually (for the full class period) is mandatory. You may miss one class over the course of the semester without penalty. Each further absence (for whatever reason – illness, family emergency, boredom, oversleeping, etc. – no excuses need be provided as none will be accepted) will see your grade diminish by half a grade point. Labs may not be missed without penalty. At times, you may have to rehearse with fellow students outside of class time (see note on Labs below). Failure to attend those rehearsals will also prejudice your grade. Additionally, there may be other events, performances and rehearsals you will have to attend over the course of the semester.

**Reading Material:** You are asked to read Suzan-Lori Parks's *365 Days/365 Plays*, *Hello Again* by Michael John LaChiusa, *The Blue Room* by David Hare, and *La Ronde* by Arthur Schnitzler. All these plays should be available at the Bookstore, and are on reserve in Rush Rhees. The CD recording of *Hello Again* is available for download from iTunes.

**Written Work:** There may be significant written work, both creative and critical, demanded over the course of the semester. All written work must be typed, double spaced, and contain the name and e-mail address of the student on the first page. Font should be Times New Roman, 12 point. Worksheets can be handwritten.

**Due dates** for all work are final (there can be absolutely NO extensions given).

**Labs:** A weekly lab time is scheduled in order that everyone can be available for rehearsals, coaching, and/or tutorials.

**Other Assignment/Events:** You must attend a rehearsal of both fall plays, *365 Days/365 Plays* and *Hello Again*, and a performance of the former (see Written Assignments).

**The Story:** You are to write a 1-2 page story based on an event that you witnessed or happened to you during that week. The event *must* be a real one. Structure the story as concisely and dramatically as possible. Give it a theatrical shape. You will use your stories as raw materials for directing work in class (see the Important Date section, below).

**Grading:**

Written assignments count 40% of your class grade. Classwork counts for another 40% of your grade and is based on the quality of work you both hand in and perform in class, and the extent to which you can apply the lessons you have learnt during the semester to your work. 10% of your grade will be awarded based on your in-class participation in discussions, critiques, etc., and your general application and dedication to the class and your classwork.

A: Exceptional performance/written work/examination/quiz scores. Impeccable attendance record and enthusiastic class participation. Full, enthusiastic and comprehensive completion of all lab duties including voluntary extra effort and significant displays of initiative and responsibility

A-, B+: Very good written work and quiz score. Impeccable attendance record and enthusiastic class participation. Full, enthusiastic and comprehensive completion of all lab duties, displaying initiative.

B, B-: Good or above average written work and quiz score. Good attendance record. Above average performance of labs and related activities.

C+, C: Average written work and quiz score. Imperfect and/or uncooperative attendance of classes, labs and related duties.

C-, D+, D, D-: Poor written work and quiz score. Poor class and/or lab attendance. Uncooperative attitude and lack of initiative.

E : All others. Don't go there

**Please Note:** Students need to be aware that no grade changes will be agreed to without substantial and clear evidence to support such changes. Grades must be in significant conflict with the system indicated below in order to be considered eligible for change. All grade changes rest ultimately with the authority of the Dean of Students; faculty can, at best, make recommendations. All requests for a grade change need to be in writing and sent to both the Instructor in question and to the Artistic Director of the Theatre Program.

## WORKSHEET ASSIGNMENTS

Worksheets have been created to facilitate students' written evaluation of rehearsals and performances. The worksheets can be found on the Resources page of the Theatre Program website (in the section: "Student, Class and Intern Resources"):

[www.rochester.edu/theatre/downloads.php](http://www.rochester.edu/theatre/downloads.php)

Rehearsal Worksheets are due at the class following your rehearsal attendance.

- **Pre-Rehearsal Worksheet: *365 Days/365 Plays***
  - DUE DATE: FRIDAY, SEPT. 17
  
- **Rehearsal Worksheet: *365 Days/365 Plays***
  - You MUST attend 2 hours of a rehearsal of *365 Days/365 Plays*.
  - *Assignment:* Complete Rehearsal Worksheet
  - DUE DATE: MONDAY FOLLOWING YOUR REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE
  
- **Story**
  - DUE DATE: MONDAY, SEPT. 17
  
- **Performance Worksheet: *365 Days/365 Plays***
  - You MUST attend a performance of *365 Days/365 Plays*.
  - *Assignment:* Complete Performance Worksheets for the production.
  - DUE DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 29 IN CLASS.
  
- **Pre-Rehearsal Worksheet: *Hello Again***
  - DUE DATE: FRIDAY, OCT. 26
  
- **Rehearsal Worksheet: *Hello Again***
  - You MUST attend 2 hours of a rehearsal of *Hello Again*.
  - *Assignment:* Complete Rehearsal Worksheet
  - DUE DATE: MONDAY FOLLOWING REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE
  
- **Final Writing Assignment:**
  - *Assignment:* TBA
  - DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12

**Important Note:** Rehearsing a play is a difficult, time-consuming, often boring, often frustrating exercise. Actors need a lot of courage to do what they have to do...it's difficult and personal work. You are expected to respect your fellow students and support their efforts. In other words: no talking, giggling, commenting on what's happening, eating or drinking, or inappropriate behaviour will be allowed. Students observing the rehearsal who are acting with insensitivity will be asked to leave.

**F.Y.I.:** A sign-up sheet will be posted for attending rehearsals. A maximum of 4 students per 2 hour period will be allowed. It is your responsibility to sign up. Rehearsals are weeknights 7-11pm and Weekends (t.b.a.- check the sign-up sheet).