

FYRP 118: Memory, History, and Story - Site Specific Devised Performance
Professor Jennifer Matthews
MW 2:00-3:15
TWC 115 Studio Theatre

“How do we articulate a vision for this art form today that will allow theatre to play that vital role in our culture?” -Moises Kaufman

Students in this class explore the histories, stories, and sites of the South Cumberland Plateau, University Domain and surrounding areas in order to create devised, site-specific performances. Devised performance techniques in this course use collaboration-from performers, designers, and researchers to create the performance outline/script- and locations that are specific to the telling of the stories selected by the students. The course culminates with a performance of the material created by students.

What Can We Learn From Creating Devised, Site Specific Performance?

- A more complex understanding of the relationships within broader liberal arts disciplines.
- How to practice collaborative skills in various contexts
- How to develop problem-solving skills during the creation of artistic work
- How to create a community to explore ideas, concepts, and freedom to create

Textbook

Moment Work: Tectonic Theater Project’s Process of Devising Theater. Moises Kaufman
And Barbara Pitts McAdams.

Other readings as noted, in folders.

Assignments

Journal

DUE: Aug. 28

You will keep a daily journal during the immersive period. Comment and reflect on readings, plenaries, and outings. You don’t have to comment on everything that happens each day, in fact, it may be better to focus on the one thing that most engaged you. Write one for each day August 14-23. (I will not be reading them during immersive period, but I will check each day to make sure you have written.) For your “Hunch” (see below) indicate 2 journal entries you would like me to read that informed your choice of subject/location.

Presentation of “Hunch” and location persuasive argument

DUE: Aug. 28

Using your journal, readings, and information from field trips to make your case for what should be the subject and location of one of our devised performances.

Prepare to speak 2-3 minutes, and to turn in a written copy of your argument.

NOTE- YOU WILL NEED TO READ THIS TO PREPARE: Moment Work, Level 3, Creating a Piece p. 153-160, 176-222

Inspiration!- History/story/design file

DUE: Sept. 30

This will be a file keep in your Performance Team group Blackboard folder. In it, you should have your research for your performance. This can include historical documents, interviews, oral histories, and images (photographic or other artwork.) This file will enable you to create your performance with your team.

Rehearsals/rehearsal journal

DUE: Oct. 14

During the regular half of the semester, you will need to rehearse THREE hours per week outside of class time rehearsals. These hours may also be writing and design time as well. Keep a journal of all rehearsals, noting time spent, goals, and work done. Nathaniel and April can be available to help- please schedule time with them.

Final performance

Tentative, Oct. 11

You will, with your group, perform a devised, site specific work of 10-20 minutes, depending on the size of the group. One third of your grade will be based on the work that you personally contributed to the project, the other two thirds on the group work. You will be expected to turn in an assessment of your work, and the work of the group, on the last day of class. (A form will be provided for the assessment)

Final Reflection

DUE: Oct. 14

In this 2-3 page paper, reflect on the process from initial journal entries, moment work, rehearsals, and the performance you helped create.

Participation/Attendance

Come to class every day (unless emergency or sick) prepared and willing to work. You are allowed 2 unexcused absences, after that, you will lose 3 pts per absence.

Journal	100
Presentation of "Hunch" and location persuasive argument	100
Inspiration!- History/story/design file	200
Rehearsal journal	100

Participation	100
Final performance	300
Final Reflection	<u>100</u>
	1000

ADA Statement

The University of the South is committed to fostering respect for the diversity of the University community and the individual rights of each member of that community. In this spirit, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the University seeks to provide students with disabilities with the reasonable accommodations needed to ensure equal access to the programs and activities of the University. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with Student Accessibility Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. If you have already requested accommodations, it is your responsibility to present your instructor with a copy of your academic accommodations letter from Student Accessibility Services which is located in the Dean of Students Office (931.598.1229). *Accommodations will not be provided without this documentation, and accommodations cannot be applied retroactively.* Additional information about accommodations can be found at <https://new.sewanee.edu/campus-life/playing/wellness-commons/university-wellness-center/student-accessibility-services/>.

Honor Code

You agreed to follow the Honor Code when you matriculated. All forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, are violations of the Honor Code and will be treated as such. If you ever have a question about an assignment or need additional help, please ask for assistance rather than jeopardize your academic career.

Wednesday, August 14th

- 3:30-4:30 First meeting with FYP Mentors
- 5:00-5:30 Opening Address from Vice-Chancellor McCardell at All Saints' Chapel
- 5:30-6:30 Picnic Dinner hosted by the Vice-Chancellor at McClurg
- 7:00-8:30 First meeting with FYP Section, TWC 115 Studio Theatre
- Exercise: The Circle (p. 30) (10 mins)
- Exercise: Moments We Love (p.31) (45 mins)

Exercise: Make a List of the Elements of the Stage (15 mins)
8:30-9:30 Hall meeting: "Residential Living" (held in your residence hall)
Readings assigned for the next morning's lecture are posted on Blackboard.

Thursday, August 15th

9:00-10:30 Landscapes of Place" plenary lecture & discussion (Convocation Hall):
Rob Bachman, Eric Keen, Bran Potter
Readings: Common Banner Folder

10:45-12:15 Abbo's Alley

12:15-1:15 Lunch (McClurg)

1:30 Archives

2:30 Moment Work
Exercise: Making a Single-Person Moment (p. 38) (20 mins)
Exercise: Making a Two-Person Moment (p. 39) (20 mins)
Exercise: Make Group Gesture Moments (p. 42) (20 mins)

4:30-5:30 Community Values (Blackman)

Friday, August 16th

8:30-10:00 *Reflective Writing*: Professor Craighill (Convocation Hall)

10:00- 4:00 Field Day
Old Stone Fort
READINGS
"Mounds, Embankments, and Ceremonialism in the Midsouth" (in daily folder)

“The Cherokee Lottery,” “Christmas with the Choctaw Chief,” and “Old Cherokee Woman’s Song,” The Cherokee Lottery (in daily folder)

Exercise: Make Group Gesture Moments (p. 42)

Exercise: Explore the Architecture and the Space (p. 45) (45 mins)

Exercise: Perform Structural Analysis (p. 53)

Noon	Lunch
4:30-5:30	Open study time
7:30-10:00	Mentor-led social activity

Saturday, August 17th

9:00-10:30 “Identity and Representation of Place” plenary lecture & discussion (Convocation Hall):

Virginia Craighill, Daniel Carter, John Willis

Readings: In Common FYP Blackboard Folder

11:00-4:30 Section time

Green’s View/Shakerag

READINGS

“Shakerag Hollow,” Sewanee Places (in daily folder)

“The Witch of Shakerag Hollow” The Witch of Shakerag Hollow (in daily folder)

“The Birthplace” Robert Frost (in daily folder)

“The Lilac and the Apple” Kate Wolf (in daily folder)

Exercise: Examine Props (p 55) (10 mins)(20 mins)

Exercise: Explore a costume (p. 64) (30 mins)

Discussion-Concepts: Discursive Power, Logging, and Sharing Moments (p. 60)

12:00 Lunch

7:30-10:00 Mentor-led social activity

Sunday, August 18th

- 8:00-12:00 Open for study/free time: (optional service at All Saints' Chapel 8-9 am)
 For information on services of other religious traditions, please consult:
 Christianity: <http://www.sewaneemessenger.com>
 Islam: <http://www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org/>
 Sikhism: <http://www.nashvillegurdwara.org/>
 Buddhism: <http://www.centermindfulliving.org/groups>
 Hinduism: <http://ganeshatemple.org/>
 Judaism: <http://www.mavensearch.com/synagogues/C3339Y41167RX>
- READING FOR TODAY: Moment Work, p. 9-24
- 12:00-1:15 Lunch (McClurg)
- 1:30-3:00 Reading: "Sewanee When We Were Young" by Richard Tillinghast (C'63)
- 3:15-5:30 Film at the SUT: *Mine 21* (Discussion location TBD by section)
- 7:00-8:00 *FYP Self Survey* (Survey Monkey link sent by e-mail)

Monday, August 19th

- 9:00- 4:30 Field Day
 LOCATION: Sequatchie Valley
 READINGS:
 "Much Tennessee History Happened at Nickajack Cave" *Tennessee Magazine*. (in daily folder)
 "The Knights of Labor" and "The Final Insurrection" Toil, Turmoil, and Triumph. (In daily folder)
 MARION COUNTY STUFF FROM DANIEL
 Concepts: Discursive Line, Narrative Flexibility, and Layering (p. 72) (30 mins)
- Noon Lunch (on the river)
- 4:30-5:30 Open study time
- 7:30-10:00 Mentor-led social activity

Tuesday, August 20th

- 8:45- 4:30 Field Day by Section (see section syllabus)

LOCATION: Grundy County- Highlander 9:15, Historical Society 1:00

Dutchmaid Bakery Lunch , Swiss Colony 10 am

Whitwell Coal Mine 2:30

READINGS:

Highlander Folk School, Grundy County's "Public Nuisance" *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (in daily folder)

Poem- Lawrence C. Moore (in daily folder)

Be as One, One, One. Clara Stampfi Brock Suter (in daily folder)

Exercise: Brainstorm a List of Ways to Use Text Onstage (p.108) (20 mins)

Exercise: Add One Line of Text (p. 109) (20 mins) Facilitators bring in text examples

Discussion-Dramatic Tension

Exercise: The Obituary Form (p. 113) 30 mins

Noon

Lunch

4:30-5:30

Open study time

7:30-10:00

Mentor-led social activity

Wednesday, August 21st

9:30-11:00

"Connecting to Place and Beyond" plenary lecture & discussion (Gailor Auditorium): Chris McDonough, Greg Pond, John Willis

Readings: Readings: In Common FYP Blackboard Folder

11:00-4:00

Section Time

LOCATION: Cemetery, Happy Hollow, St. Rest, Rebel's Rest, All Saints

READINGS:

"To the Confederate Dead" Marilyn Nelson (in daily folder)

(reread Ely)

"Cemeteries and Graves" Sewanee Places (in daily folder)

Exercise: Interrupt a Moment/Generate Text; Respond to
Discomfort/Generate Text (p. 116) (40 mins)

12:00-1:15

Lunch

4:30-5:30

Open for study

5:30-8:00

Dinner, tour, and trivia in the Sewanee village (Rain location American Legion Hall)

Star watching at Observatory

Thursday, August 22nd

9:00-noon

Study time or mentor led exploration *What is this?

12:00-1:15

Lunch (McClurg)

1:30-4:00

Scavenger Hunt

4:00-5:30

Open for study

7:30-10:00

Mentor-led social activity

Friday, August 23rd

9:30-11:00

“Creations of Place” plenary lecture & discussion (Tennessee Williams Center):

Shelley MacLaren, Jennifer Matthews, Elyzabeth Wilder

Readings: B. Fletcher “What Your Clothes Might be Saying about You”

A. Fury “When Fashion Becomes a Form of Protest”

11:00-4:00

Section time

LOCATION: The Potters, The Cross, Proctors Hall, Morgan’s Steep.

READINGS: “The Headless Gownsmen” - Haunted Sewanee

“Tennessee Williams Center” -Haunted Sewanee

“Proctors Hall”- Sewanee Places

“Morgan’s Steep”-Sewanee Place

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12:00-1:15 Lunch
4:00-5:30 Open for study
7:00-10:00 Casino Night with PRE students

Wednesday, August 28

Pick your topic! **Presentation of “Hunch” and location persuasive argument**

NOTE- YOU WILL NEED TO READ THIS TO PREPARE: Moment Work, Level 3,

Creating a Piece p. 153-160, 176-212

Turn in journals

Monday, September 2

Movement with Courtney World

Wednesday, September 4

Moment Work

Read: Process, Level 2 p. 125-152

Monday, September 9

Playwriting with Elyzabeth Wilder

Wednesday, September 11

Moment work- get assistance from Jennifer, Nathaniel, and April

Read: Moment Work, Essay “What Do We Bring Into the Room?” p. 253-258

Monday, September 16

Acting with Jim Crawford

Wednesday, September 18

Moment work- get assistance from Jennifer, Nathaniel, and April

Exercises TBD

Monday, September 23

Design Elements with Jennifer Matthews

Wednesday, September 25

Moment work- get assistance from Jennifer, Nathaniel, and April
Draft of script worked out by end of class

Monday, September 30

“Script” worked out, begin finessing movement, props, costumes
Exercises TBD

Due-Inspiration!- History/story/design file

Wednesday, October 2

Continue finessing movement, props, costumes

Monday, October 7

Rehearse in the field, final troubleshooting

Wednesday, October 9

In class performance/final rehearsal

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 4:30 pm

Tentative performance for FYP

Monday, October 14

Discussion of Performance

Assessment of Individual and Group work due

Rehearsals/rehearsal journal due