

School of English and Theatre Studies
College of Arts
University of Guelph

THST 3650
Theatre Historical Studies Seminar
Space and the Advent of Commercial Theatre

Fall 2012

Instructor: D. O'Quinn
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Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to a range of issues pertaining to the emergence of the commercial theatre in Britain. Using an extensive range of on-line materials, students will be examining the interplay between commercial theatrical performance and other entertainment media in London from 1750 to 1830. Garrick and Sheridan will loom large in the course, but we will also be looking at a host of illegitimate venues and "low" genres. Wherever possible we will be working from primary archives and will be attempting to reconstruct performances with an eye for how they were remediated in the press. Along the way, a consideration of theoretical issues in historicization will animate the course.

Required Texts:

Frank Felsenstein, *English Trader, Indian Maid* (Johns Hopkins)
David Garrick and George Colman, *The Clandestine Marriage* (Broadview) 9781551110271
Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The School for Scandal and Other Plays* (Oxford) 9780199540099

+ Courseware pack
CourseLink materials

Evaluation Structure:

Scenography assignment	20%
Newspaper assignment	20%
Podcast	20%
Short essay	40%

This course will be composed of seminars and in-class discussions. Attendance therefore is crucial to the success of this course.

Assignment Schedule:

Assignment 1:	Assigned Tuesday, Sept 20; due Thursday, Sept 22
Assignment 2:	Assigned Tuesday, Oct 11; due Tuesday, Oct 18
Assignment 3:	Assigned Tuesday, Nov 8; due Thursday, Nov 10
Final Essay:	December 13, 2011 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, location TBA

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Tentative Syllabus

1. One night at the Theatre

- M Sept 10 Intro
- W Sept 12 Macklin in *The Merchant of Venice*
 Anderson,
- F Sept 14 Macklin, *Love a la Mode*

I Space and History: Meditations on Garrick's Theatre

2. The Advent of the Commercial Theatre

- M Sept 17 *The Clandestine Marriage* (1766)
- W Sept 19 *The Clandestine Marriage* (1766)
- F Sept 21 Stuart Sherman, "Garrick Among Media"

3. Celebrity and Canonicity

- M Sept 24 Deelman chapters re. Jubilee (courselink)
- W Sept 26 Garrick, *The Jubilee* (1769)
- F Sept 28 *Jubilee* dossier
 Dobson chapters

4. Spectacle and Generic Controversy: Re-constituting the repertoire (workshop)

- M Oct 1 Oaks Gazette Extraordinary (1775)
 O'Quinn, "Diversionary Tactics and Coercive Acts"
- W Oct 3 Larpent submission
- F Oct 5 Maid of the Oaks (1775)
 Russell, "Lady Bab and Mrs Ab"

5. Theatrical Sociability

- M Oct 8 Thanksgiving
- W Oct 10 Sheridan, *The Rivals*
- F Oct 12 Sheridan, *School for Scandal*
 Russell,

6. Re-mediation in the Repertoire

M Oct 15 Hannah Cowley, *The Belle's Stratagem* (ECCO)
W Oct 17 Hannah Cowley, *Which is the Man?* (ECCO)
F Oct 19 Class cancelled

7. The End of Theatre

M Oct 22 Sheridan, "Monody on the Death of David Garrick" (1779)
Newspaper accounts
W Oct 24 Sheridan, *The Critic* (1779)
Elizabeth at Tilbury (1779)
F Oct 26 Sheridan, *The Critic*
Jones,

II Theatre and Geo-political space in the Post-Garrick world

8. Imperial Fantasy (workshop)

M Oct 29 O'Keefe, *Omai* (1785)
W Oct 31
F Nov 2

9. Bodies in Performance (workshop)

M Nov 5 George Colman, *Inkle and Yarico* (1787)
W Nov 7
F Nov 9

10. Political Theatre (workshop)

M Nov 12 Inchbald, *Such Things Are*
W Nov 14
F Nov 16

III Illegitimate Spaces

11. Entertainment beyond the patent

M Nov 19 Grimaldi
Jane Moody
W Nov 21 Astley's Royal Amphitheatre
F Nov 23 Jane Scott at the Sans Pareil
Whackham and Windham

12. London's stage (workshop)

M Nov 26 Moncrieff, *Tom and Jerry*
W Nov 28
F Nov 30