Thea 462/Pacs 462: Drama and Theatre of Oceania
Fall 2001
University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

Thea 462/ Pacs 462 is an undergraduate level offering in the Department of Theatre and Dance and the Center for Pacific Islands Studies.

Instructors: Professors Vilsoni Hereniko (vili@Hawaii.edu) and Dennis Carroll (carroll@Hawaii.edu).
Venue:  Kennedy Theatre 101
Time:  Tuesday and Thursday, 12-1.15pm.
Office Hours:  (to be announced in class.)

Purpose of the Course
The purpose of this course is to provide students with a historical perspective of drama and theatre in Oceania, from the time of European contact to the present. There are three main components to this course: indigenous theatre forms of Oceania, popular theater, and scripted plays.

Student Evaluation
Students will be evaluated on attendance and performance in class (10%), five assignments during the semester (50%), and an exam (40%).

Required Texts:
Lawler, R 1989  *Summer of the 17th Doll.* Samuel French.
Thomas, Larry 1991  *Men, Women and Insanity. 3 Plays.* Suva: University of the South Pacific, 151-204.
Instructors
This course will be taught by Dr. Vilsoni Hereniko, associate professor with the Center for Pacific Islands Studies. Before joining UH, he taught theatre arts at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. He has also written, directed, and acted in many plays. Dr. Hereniko’s dissertation topic was “Polynesian Clowns and Satirical Comedies.”

The Australian section of the course will be taught by Dr. W. Dennis Carroll. Professor Carroll is Australian by birth and has published extensively on Australian contemporary drama and staged several Australian plays. He was also the artistic director for Kumu Kahua in Honolulu until a few years ago. Recently, a play he wrote about the life of Captain Cook was produced by Kumu Kahua.

Course Outline
Note: You are expected to attend all classes. If you have a legitimate reason for being absent, please call the instructor in advance and let him know so he can make alternative arrangements for you to see him.

8/28: Orientation and overview of the course.

8/30: Indigenous theater practices of Oceania.
Reading: “Introduction” in Mitchell ed.

9/04: the arioi of Tahiti
Reading: Pages 96-111 in Hereniko’s “Polynesian Clowns and Satirical Comedies”

9/06: the fale aitu of Samoa
Reading: Sinavaiana’s chapter in Mitchell ed.

9/11: the han maneak su of Rotuma
Reading: Hereniko’s chapter in Mitchell ed.

9/13: Melanesian theater practices.
Reading: at least one chapter from Melanesia in Mitchell ed. Also read Fergus Clunie and Walesi Ligairi in Domodomo: June 1983: 1, 46-77.

ASSIGNMENT 1: (to be announced in class on 9/06)

9/18: The emergence of popular theater in Melanesia.
Reading: “This Man” by Francis Bugotu and Tony Hughes.
9/20: Won Smolbag Theater: Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. View tape of this group in class.

9/25: The emergence of Papua New Guinea Writers
Reading: Introduction to Five New Guinea Plays as well as “The Ungrateful Daughter” by Leo Hannet.

9/27: Early Plays and Playwrights
Reading: Kirsty Powell’s dissertation titled “The First Papua New Guinea Plays and Playwrights.”

10/02: The plays of Nora Vagi Brash
Reading: “Which Way Big Man?” in Through Melanesian Eyes compiled by Ganga Powell. Also research library/internet for more information on Brash.

ASSIGNMENT 2: (to be announced in class on 9/25)

10/04: The Role of the University of the South Pacific (Fiji) and the South Pacific Creative Arts Society.
Reading: Preface and Chapters 1 and 2 in Subramani’s “South Pacific Literature: From Myth to Fabulation.”

10/09: Early plays from Fiji.
Reading: “I Native No More” by Jo Nacola.

10/11: Plays about the urban dispossessed.
Reading: Larry Thomas’ Plays.

10/16: Exploring a Pacific theater,
Reading: “Last Virgin in Paradise.”

10/18: Overview of the theater scene in Hawaii.
Reading: Introduction by Dennis Carroll in Kumu Kahua Plays.

10/23: Influences on Pacific Playwrights
Reading: “Think of a Garden” by John Kneubuhl.

10/30: The growth of contemporary Pacific theater in Hawaii
Reading: one of Alani Apio’s plays.

ASSIGNMENT 3: (to be announced in class on 10/09)

11/01: Overview of New Zealand Plays
Reading: “Introduction” in He Reo Hou
11/06: Plays by Maori Playwrights
Reading: “Roimata” by Riwia Brown. (text)

ASSIGNMENT 4: (to be announced in class on 11/06)

11/08: Plays by Maori Playwrights
Reading: “Te Awa I Tahuti.”

11/13: Other Plays, Playwrights in Diaspora.

11/15: An assessment of the theater scene in Oceania: Future Directions?

The rest of the course will be taught by Dennis Carroll, except for the final class on 12/13.

11/20: Early Australian Drama and Theatre
READING ASSIGNMENT: Carroll, "Contemporary Australian Drama," Ch. 1 (Xerox); Esson's "The Drovers" (Xerox)

11/22: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

11/27: Development of Mainstream Australian Drama Since 1960
READING: Introduction to Katharine Brisbane to “Australia Plays”; Lawler, “Summer of the 17th Doll.” (Texts)

11/29: Development of Mainstream Australian Drama Since 1960

12/04: Development of Australian Alternative Drama and Theatre: Feminist and Multicultural Theatre
READING: Alma de Groen’s "The Rivers of China." (from “Australia Plays.”)

12/06: The Rise of Aboriginal Drama and Theatre
READING: Carroll Ch. 13 pp. 346-66 (Xerox); Davis' "No Sugar."

ASSIGNMENT 5: A 2-3 page writing assignment for this unit on Australian Drama and Theatre will be described on 11/20 and will be due 12/11.

NOTE THAT THE XEROX MATERIAL MUST NOT BE MARKED IN ANY WAY AND WILL NEED TO BE RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE AFTER THE COURSE.

12/11: Review of the course / Evaluation

12/13: Exam Questions and Wrap-up.
December 17-23: Final Examinations

Some additional texts.

These readings will enhance your understanding and appreciation of drama and theatre in Oceania. You should read as many of them as you can during the course of the semester—see Pacific collection in Hamilton.

Brandon, James (ed.)

Brash, Nora

Carroll, Dennis

Chi, Jimmy and Kuckles.

Clunie, Fergus and Walesi Ligairi

Hannet, Leo

Hereniko, Vilsoni


Huntsman, Judith and Antony Hooper
1975 Male and Female in Tokelau Culture. Journal of the Polynesian Society. 84.4, 415-430.

Kiste, Robert C
Kneubuhl, John

Kneubuhl, Victoria

Moyle, Richard.

Nero, Karen ed.

Nozawa, Sharon

Plant, Chris

Powell, Kirsty

Sakamoto, Edward
1995    *Hawaii No Ka Oi -- The Kamiya Family Trilogy*. (Honolulu, UH Press, 1995.)

Schoeffel, Penelope

Sinavaiana, Caroline

Sloan, Donald

Thorogood, Bernard