Syllabus

SAM SHEPARD & AMERICAN EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE - 20603

Last update 14-08-2016

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: theatre studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Jeanette Malkin

Coordinator Email: jmalkin@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wed. 12:10-13:00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Jeanette Malkin
Course/Module description:
In 1979, Sam Shepard received the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for his play "Buried Child" and entered the canon of important American playwrights. Shepard - playwright, actor, director - is a cinema icon and one of the most interesting avant-garde playwrights in the US. In the 1960s, in Greewich Village, Shepard had 20 plays produced. This seminar will examine how the fringe art revolution of the 1960s in dance, music, art and performance influenced Shepard's early theatre work. We will read his plays and discuss them in the light of these influences.

Course/Module aims:
To study the New York avant-garde scene of the 1960s through the early experimental plays of Sam Shepard and to get to know those plays.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Students will understand the enormous influence of the Greenwich Village alternative culture of the 1960s on the arts in general and on the post-realist American theatre.
They will come to know Shepard's early plays.

Attendance requirements(%):
80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Collective discussions, selected screenings, and class lectures by the students on articles and other material. The relevant plays and articles must be read before each class.

Course/Module Content:
There may be changes:
The New York avant-garde
Shepard and 'rock' culture
The first plays: Cowboys / Rock Garden (1964)
Theatre Cafes: experimental stages
Shepard and Joseph Chaikin
Icarus’s Mother (1965)
Shepard and the Theatre Genesis
La Turista (1967)
Other Village playwrights
Anti-establishment paranoia: The Unseen Hand (1969)
Shepard and Patty Smith: Sex, drugs and rock-and-roll
-Far from NY: Geography of a Horse Dreamer (1974)
-Sci-fi and the classical pattern: Tooth of Crime (1972)
-Action (1975)
-From fringe to center stage: Buried Child (1978)

**Required Reading:**

Plays:

Cowboys
Rock Garden
Icarus’s Mother
La Turista
The Unseen Hand
Cowboy Mouth
Geography of a Horse Dreamer
Tooth of Crime
Action
Buried Child

Secondary material:

גבעון עפרת. התיאטרון הרדיקלי: התיאטרון החדש של סוף שנות השישים. הוצאת הפקולטה למדעי
הרוח, האוניברסיטה העברית, 1976.


Additional Reading Material:


DeRose, David J. Sam Shepard. Twayne’s United States Authors Series, 1992.


(Chapter on Shepard).


Orbison, Tucker. “Mythic Levels in Shepard’s True West,” Modern Drama 27/4


Wilcox, Leonard. The Desert and the City: Operation Sidewinder and Shepard’s Postmodern Allegory, in Wilcox (ed), Rereading Shepard.


**Course/Module evaluation:**
- End of year written/oral examination 0 %
- Presentation 25 %
- Participation in Tutorials 25 %
- Project work 0 %
- Assignments 0 %
- Reports 0 %
- Research project 50 %
- Quizzes 0 %
- Other 0 %

**Additional information:**