August 2017

We are delighted that you are coming to Leeds to study English Literature & Theatre Studies. Here are a few details about what you can expect when you arrive in Leeds:

1. On **Tuesday, 19 September 2017**, there is a meeting for all incoming English students at 10.00am in **Roger Stevens Lecture Theatre 21**. Directly after this, at around 11.00am, Theatre Studies students will be escorted to the Workshop Theatre’s Studio 1 where we will give you a short introduction to the programme, the facilities and the staff, followed by an informal ‘get to know you’ workshop session. At around 12:30pm there will be lunch available and an opportunity to meet students on other years of the Theatre Studies programme.

2. Teaching begins the following **Monday, 25 September 2017**. Your first Theatre Studies class will be a one-hour lecture at 4pm. This will kick off the first unit of the *Approaches to Theatre and Performance* core module. Later that week, you will also have a seminar and a two-hour practical workshop. Full details will be given at the introductory meeting.

3. To make friends with your new classmates in advance of meeting them in the flesh, you can join the Workshop Theatre facebook page: [http://bit.ly/workshoptheatre](http://bit.ly/workshoptheatre). Do also visit our blog at [http://theatre-studies.co.uk](http://theatre-studies.co.uk). You can also follow our community notices on Twitter at @workshoptheatre.

4. **Preparation**: In advance of the first lecture and seminar in the week beginning 25 September 2017, please watch the YouTube video ‘Does Theatre Still Matter?’ an interview with playwright Tony Kushner: [http://youtu.be/C87fblpBGmA](http://youtu.be/C87fblpBGmA). The two plays and a novel that you will need to purchase for the module will be available in the campus bookshop when you arrive or you may wish to find copies online to read in advance. These set texts are: Federico Garcia Lorca, *The House of Bernarda Alba* (trans and edited by Gwynne Edwards, pub. Methuen Drama Modern Plays, 2007); Howard Barker, *The Possibilities* (any edition); Gunter Grass, *The Tin Drum* (any edition).

5. There will be a theatre visit to see Kneehigh’s *The Tin Drum* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse on **Thursday 19th October** at 7.30pm. We have made a group booking and will collect ticket money (£12.50) from you in class, during the week of the show.

6. On **21-22nd October 2017**, there will be a ‘Weekender’ workshop in the Workshop Theatre. We are very pleased to announce that this year the Weekender will be facilitated by Kneehigh theatre company. You will be required to spend the whole weekend (10am-4pm, both Saturday and Sunday) working together. This is a great way of getting to know each other, and to appreciate the ethos of learning through making that is at the heart of the Workshop Theatre experience. The approaches that you learn and theatre that you create during the Weekender will form the basis of group performance projects staged later in the semester.

**Recommended reading for your first semester.** (We don’t expect you to buy all of these books, but they may inform your studies in the first semester. The Michael Mangan book will serve you well throughout the first year and beyond):

- Brook, Peter, *The Empty Space* (Penguin, 1972)
- Counsell, Colin & Laurie Wolf, ed., *Performance Analysis* (Routledge, 2001)
- Delgado, Maria, *Federico Garcia Lorca*, (Routledge, 2008)
Heddon, Deirdre and Jane Milling, *Devising Performance* (Palgrave, 2006)
Howard, Pamela, *What is Scenography?* (Routledge, 2001)
Mackintosh, Ian, *Architecture, Actor and Audience* (Routledge, 1993)

We look forward to meeting you in September 2017. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Dr Helen Iball (Programme Leader, BA Hons English Literature and Theatre Studies) by email: h.iball@leeds.ac.uk

With best wishes,
The Workshop Theatre team