

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Course Code: THST*4270 | Course Title: Research Seminar I: Pantomime and its legacies | Semester and Year of Offering: W25 |
|----------------------------------|--|--|

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Course Instructor: Prof. J. Schacker | Course Format: Seminar |
|--|----------------------------------|

Brief Course Synopsis:

This course is a research seminar in selected topics in media, theatre and performance. For W25 our starting point will be some focused study of British pantomime – its roots in commedia dell’arte, its development in the 19th century as a form that featured clowning, dance, and musical parody, offering audiences topical comedy, stage wizardry, and scenic spectacle. The specific shows we will explore together (through scripts, reviews, and a variety of forms of print ephemera) offer complex perspectives on sexuality, class, and race during a period of imperial expansion and social change within Britain itself. We will consider some of the legacies of this period of pantomime history, including the current status of the Christmas panto in Britain, but also the roots of contemporary burlesque/neo-burlesque in the popular theatre circuits of the late Victorian period and the postcolonial transformation of pantomime in Jamaica.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

| <i>Component</i> | <i>Weight (%)</i> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Research exercises (best 3 of 4) | 30% |
| Discussion-leading/presentation | 20% |
| Reading responses | 20% |
| Culminating project | 20% |
| Participation | 10% |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.):

The Routledge Pantomime Reader, 1800-1900 .
Jennifer Schacker and Daniel O’Quinn, eds.

A variety of e-readings (ARES)

Information about mode of delivery:

This is a face-to-face course.

Final Exam information:

n/a