

THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS
A COURSE 2,500 YEARS IN THE MAKING

"Theatre history has never been this sexy."

Peter Travers

"A class with a 'Q' and an 'X'? Hell yeah."

Don Quixote

"He may be a soulless minion of bourgeois orthodoxy,
but this Aaron guy is all right."

Bertolt Brecht

As long as there has been art, there have been people who were offended by it, and tried to affect what they were exposed to and what others were allowed to see. This class will look at the ways that the theatre has been pressured, both productively and repressively, by individuals, religious groups, and political institutions over the past two millennia.

We'll start with the birth of Western theatre in classical Greece and finish off by exploring the forces at work in our own society. In between, we'll move from the Mediterranean to North America, from Shakespeare's England to Moscow's bloody purges, and through the "witch hunts" of the McCarthy era. We'll read important plays from each period, and some of the responses they elicited from both appreciative audience members and sometimes violent critics.

In addition to examining the economic, political, or religious pressures at work in a particular era, we'll look at the theatre's response, how it adapted to the forces seeking to control it, and what the theatre of today has (or hasn't) taken from those lessons.

THE T 399Q:
SUPPRESSING XPRESSION

[SIC] PRODUCTIONS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE PRESENT AN AARON TOBIASON CLASS

PLATO EURIPEDES PLAUTUS TERTULLIAN WILLIAM PRYNNE WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE BEN JOHNSON SAMUEL PEPYS JOSEPH STALIN ANDREI ZHDANOV AND RONALD REAGAN



WRITTEN, PRODUCED, AND DIRECTED BY AARON TOBIASON ADVISING BY HEATHER S. NATHANS



OPENS IN PAC 1815 ON JANUARY 25, 2010
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