

Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Ute Berns
Thema:	Contemporary British and Irish Drama [AA-M11, AA-M12]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-546
Zeit:	2st., Mi 10-12
Raum:	Phil 1219
Beginn:	4. April 2012

Course description:

This seminar will introduce you to British and Irish playwriting of the last decade of the twentieth and the first decade of the twenty-first century. For different reasons both Britain and Ireland have recently seen a surge of new writing for the stage voicing a great variety of contemporary concerns. Plays by Mark Ravenhill and Sarah Kane, Martin McDonagh and Enda Walsh, Marina Carr, Shelagh Stephenson and April de Angelis, for instance, explore gendered identities in various religious, multiethnic or nationalist contexts. They portray a dissatisfaction with neo-liberalist values, attitudes towards terrorism or experiments with relationships and family-life, sometimes through graphic representations of sex and violence.

Many of these plays also question and re-shape traditional forms drama. Highly aware of dramatic traditions and genres, they re-consider the 'well-made play', they tap into the power of farce, or deploy devices typical of political drama. Some plays re-discover the different uses of story-telling and move back and forth between different time planes. Others integrate fragments of the subconscious into extended versions of 'realism' or dissolve altogether the clear delineation of the speakers and their parts.

In the course of the seminar we will analyse and discuss the plays, we will focus on some of the dramatic devices in more detail, and we will relate the plays to their British and Irish contexts of reception. Some of the playwrights wrote film scripts and two films (McDonagh's *In Bruges*, 2008, and Kane's *Skin*, 1995) will help us to move beyond the texts. A guest lecture will also be part of the seminar.

Course requirements:

Regular attendance, solid knowledge of the texts and active participation; to obtain full credits: presentation and essay.

Introductory reading:

Martin Middeke, Peter Paul Schnierer and Aleks Sierz. *The Methuen Drama Guide to Contemporary British Playwrights*. Methuen Drama 2011.

Martin Middeke and Peter Paul Schnierer. *The Methuen Drama Guide to Contemporary Irish Playwrights*. Methuen 2010.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	6.3., 13-15 Uhr