Continuing Education and Professional Development in the Centre for Lifelong Learning

The courses in this leaflet will all be held at 126 Mount Pleasant, The University of Liverpool (opposite the Metropolitan Cathedral)

Fee concessions
Second fee: if you are a retirement pensioner over 60, or a full-time student
Third fee: if you receive Job Seekers’ Allowance, Working Tax Credit, Council Tax Benefit, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Disabled Person’s Tax Credit, or Incapacity Benefit, or you are an unwaged dependant of someone in receipt of one of these benefits.
For the one-day course Shakespeare’s Dramatic ancestors, all concessions pay the second fee listed under course details

Enrolment
You must enrol in advance for these courses: enrolment closing dates are shown under each course details. You may enrol and pay by debit/credit card by telephoning 0151-794 6900 or with an enrolment form (in the CE prospectus available on request from 0151-794 6900) or downloaded from the CE website.

Credit for your Courses
You can gain University credit for Shakespeare’s Dramatic Ancestors and The Chester Mystery Plays as part of the University’s accredited Continuing Education programme. University credits are nationally-recognised under the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme. Credits are awarded for attendance at a course and for satisfactory completion of assignments, and may be accumulated towards a University award or as evidence of personal achievement for vocational purposes.

Enquiries and enrolments to:
Continuing Education
in the Centre for Lifelong Learning,
The University of Liverpool,
26 Mount Pleasant,
Liverpool L69 3GR,
tel 0151 794 2548/6900
e-mail conted@liverpool.ac.uk,
CE website www.liv.ac.uk/conted/

Medieval Church Drama
Three new courses in Liverpool 2007/08

Shakespeare’s Dramatic Ancestors
Medieval Mystery Plays
The Chester Mystery Plays
Medieval Church Drama
Three courses in Liverpool 2007/08

Medieval religious drama often trod a fine line between the sacred and the profane. Linked to the Corpus Christi procession, but with strong civic input, the mystery cycles contain an exciting mixture of religious and popular content. Performed by craft guilds at designated stops on a route around the city, the mystery plays re-enacted the course of Christian salvation history from the Creation to Judgment Day. Yet each cycle maintained its own local and religious identity.

Of the remaining mystery play texts, one of the most outstanding has its roots close to home – Chester. This city preserved a cycle with many unique features such as the Antichrist episode and the use of split staging. To mark the 2008 production of this cycle, we are offering a course that will focus on the content and context of the cycle, as well as the history (medieval and modern) of its performance. Reserved tickets are available for the 2008 performances of the Chester Mystery Plays (bookings for reserved tickets must be made before 31st December 2007).

In contrast, the morality plays use the personification of sins, temptations and death in order to tackle the issue of humankind’s salvation. We cannot say whether these plays were performed for profit by travelling troupes, or whether the texts themselves travelled from town to town, and were performed by local people. Although the majority of contextual information we have relates to the mystery plays, an examination of the morality plays makes for some very interesting debates about context, staging and the plays’ influence on the drama that followed, such as Shakespeare and Marlowe.

All three courses will provide contextual information surrounding the drama, as well as a thorough exploration of the texts and possible staging circumstances. No knowledge of Middle English is required. The themes of medieval religious drama are universal - good versus evil, temptation, sin, love, compassion, play and work. Students will find the exploration of these texts an extremely rewarding experience, and they will see that the medieval mindset is perhaps not that different from our own!

SHAKESPEARE’S DRAMATIC ANCESTORS
2 linked days, Sat 3 Nov and 1 Dec 9.30-4.30
Enrolment closing date Thur 25 Oct. £44/ £33/ £18
English drama did not just start with Shakespeare! Examining extracts from medieval mystery cycles and morality plays, we will learn about the earlier staging techniques and forms that influenced Shakespeare, and how he adapted them for use in his work.

10410 engl 927 5 credits

MEDIEVAL MYSTERY PLAYS
1 day, Sat 12 April 9.30-4.30
Enrolment closing date Thur 3 April. £23 / £18 all concessions
Discover this unique form of street drama, with its links to the church and the civic institutions of medieval England. By reading selected extracts from the York and Chester Mystery Cycles, we will explore the plays’ religious and popular content.

13522 engl 942 Non-accredited course

THE CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS
4 weekly meetings from Thur 15 May 7.00-9.00, and two play performances at Chester on 26 and 27 June*. Enrolment closing date Tues 6 May. £38/ £29/ £15 for course; *play tickets extra - £10 each performance if booked by 31 December from ticket office at 01244 304618.
Further information at www.chestermysteryplays.com
In the run-up to the 2008 production of the Chester Mystery Cycle, learn about this unique form of medieval drama and its importance to the city of Chester. Tickets reserved for performances on 26 and 27 June.

13511 engl 924 5 credits

About the lecturer: Andrea Young gained her BA in English Language and Literature from St. Hilda’s College, Oxford, and then went on to take an MA at The University of Liverpool with a thesis entitled ‘Authority, Authorship and Authorisation in the Mystery Cycles of York and Chester.’ She is now studying at part-time at Liverpool for her PhD in medieval drama.