This seminar delves into the remarkably rich array of drama and performance created in English over the last 15 years. Some playwrights listed here have been important cultural presences for decades; we’ll read their latest and, in some cases, riskiest work. Other, younger writers, now helping to create venues for new drama, have presented only a few plays so far. We’ll also survey the newest generation of the avant-garde. Several vibrant New York-based companies, heirs to the iconoclastic theaters that emerged in the 1970s and 1980s, are rethinking the nature of spectacle in disorienting and occasionally disturbing ways. In our final sessions, we’ll read the work of some English, Scottish, and Irish writers depicting a world of rising moral and political anxiety.

   Wallace Shawn: *Grasses of a Thousand Colors* (2009)
   “Writing About Sex” (server)
   **Viewing:** *The Myopia*

July 5: Sarah Ruhl: *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)* (2009)
   **Viewing:** *Sorry*

   Richard Maxwell: *Isolde* (server)
   **Viewing:** *Isolde*
   *Middletown* (optional)

   **Viewing:** *The Shipment*


July 19: Jackie Sibblies Drury: *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as South-West Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915* (2012)
   Christopher Chen: *Caught* (2016) (server)
   **Viewing:** Jackie Sibblies Drury: *We Are Proud to Present....*
July 20: Short paper due by 11:59 PM

Rachel Anderson-Rabern: “The Nature Theater of Oklahoma’s Aesthetics of Fun” (server)
Sara Jane Bailes: “Dislocations of Practice: Elevator Repair Service” (server)
**Viewing:** Nature Theater of Oklahoma: *Romeo and Juliet*
Elevator Repair Service: *The Select (The Sun Also Rises)* (2011)
*Gatz* (2005-10) (excerpts)

July 26: Alice Birch: *Revolt. She said. Revolt again.* (2014)
Gob Squad: “On Structure” (server)
“On Performing” (server)
“On Participation” (server)
**Viewing:** Gob Squad: *Super Night Shot* (2005)

July 31: David Harrower: *Blackbird* (2005) (server)
Martin McDonagh: *Pillowman* (2003) (server)

Caryl Churchill: *Seven Jewish Children* (2009) (server)
**Viewing:** Caryl Churchill: *Seven Jewish Children*
(available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYAYnJ6HZ5M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYAYnJ6HZ5M)).

Aug. 3: Final paper due by 11:59 PM

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Requirements:

Lively participation in class; attendance at production (date TBA); at least eight blog posts on Canvas (observations, questions, complaints, topics for discussion) about some or all of the week’s readings or viewings, due by noon the day of class; one 6-8-page essay on a topic of your choice (approved by me in advance), covering one or more plays from first 3 weeks of course, due July 20; one 10-12-page essay on a topic of your choice (approved by me in advance), due Aug. 3.
Texts available at Yale Bookstore and on reserve at the Haas Arts Library (180 York Street). Readings not available at Yale Bookstore or Haas are on the Canvas server. Videos for viewing on server, under Media Library tab.

**Editions:**

Wallace Shawn: *Grasses of a Thousand Colors* (Theatre Communications Group)  
David Greenspan: *The Myopia and Other Plays* (Univ. of Michigan Press)  
Richard Nelson: *The Apple Family* (Theatre Communications Group)  
Young Jean Lee: *The Shipment* (Theatre Communications Group)  
Sarah Ruhl: *In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play* (Theatre Communications Group)  
Anne Washburn: *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (Oberon Books)  
Annie Baker: *The Vermont Plays* (Theater Communications Group)  
Will Eno: *Middletown* (Theatre Communications Group)  
Jackie Sibblies Drury: *We Are Proud to Present....* (Bloomsbury/Methuen)  
Tim Crouch: *The Author* (Oberon Books)  
Alice Birch: *Revolt. She said. Revolt again.* (Oberon)  
David Harrower: *Blackbird* (Dramatists Play Service)  
Jennifer Haley: *The Nether* (Northwestern Univ. Press)  
Martin McDonagh: *The Pillowman* (FSG/Faber)