2018 London Fall
Theater Seminar

Murray Biggs
Special YET Lecturer
English and Theater Studies
Dear Yale Traveler

Join us for this highly customized seminar sampling the very best of London theater. Professor Biggs will curate a selection of six representative plays, including both traditional and modern works. The program aims at variety and quality in the choice of plays, productions, and venues, providing a stimulating look at the breadth of London theater. While many London theaters cannot confirm spring productions until a couple of months before the program, we’re unusually fortunate in having three of our six plays already selected!

Each day, Professor Biggs will lead a discussion of the play that the group has just seen and introduce the play that they will see later that day. With the exception of two group excursions and possibly a matinee, afternoons are free to explore museums, art galleries, and other London attractions.

Stay with us in the historic and literary Bloomsbury district at the Montague on the Gardens, a luxury townhouse hotel overlooking a private garden and close to the British Museum and Covent Garden. Fully air-conditioned guest rooms and hotel suites provide the ambience of a fine country hotel on a London side street. Convenient to museums and theaters as well as some of London’s best shopping and restaurants, the Montague is an excellent base from which to take advantage of London’s splendid cultural offerings.

Happy travels,

David McIntosh ’07
Assistant Director of Educational Travel

www.yaleedtravel.org/londonfall18

What to Expect

Tickets to six plays, selected by Professor Murray Biggs
Stimulating group discussions led by Prof. Biggs
Scripts of plays to read in advance of the productions
Accommodations with included English breakfast at the famed Montague on the Gardens for seven nights starting Thursday, October 11
Festive Welcome and Farewell dinners
Included dinners on theater evenings close to each theater
Private tours of theater-related venues!
Plays in unusual venues: West End to Off-West End, suburban and small theaters
Yale Study Leader

Murray Biggs

Murray Biggs, semi-retired Adjunct Associate Professor of English and Theater Studies at Yale, is known throughout the campus and with alumni everywhere for his dynamic teaching style that inspires great enthusiasm and active participation. He has led week-long theater seminars in various locations: in London; at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario, and at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake; as well as in Ireland and at the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. He also offers theater weekends in major cities in the U.S., most regularly in New York City, San Diego, and Sarasota. In 2016 he was Artist-in-Residence at the Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach. Although retired from regular teaching, Professor Murray Biggs is still widely active at and for Yale.

Professor Biggs was born in England, brought up in South Africa, and returned to England as a Rhodes Scholar to take his second degree (in English) at Oxford, where he afterwards taught for two years. He later studied acting and for a time performed professionally in Boston. He worked at MIT for ten years, mainly as founder and first Director of the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble. He also taught at Wellesley, Berkeley, and the University of Connecticut before joining the Yale faculty in 1986. He has published many articles and reviews, especially about Shakespeare and his contemporaries in performance. In 1991 he edited a collection of essays, The Arts of Performance in Elizabethan and Early Stuart Drama. He has directed over 40 plays, a third of them from the English Renaissance.

Upcoming Theater

New York City Theater Weekends
10/19/2018 - 10/21/2018
10/26/2018 - 10/28/2018
Prof. Murray Biggs

London Spring Theater
03/13/2019 - 03/21/2019
Prof. Murray Biggs

Best of Ontario Theater
08/08/2019 - 08/16/2019
Prof. Murray Biggs
ITINERARY
OCTOBER 10-18, 2018

LONDON
Wednesday, October 10
Depart for London. You may wish to arrive a day or two early to better recover from jet-lag before the program begins on Thursday. (Additional nights will be ~£210 [excluding VAT] per room).

LONDON
Thursday, October 11
Mid-afternoon welcome and discussion. Professor Murray Biggs will introduce the first play, followed by a welcome dinner and evening performance. (D)

LONDON
Friday, October 12
 Morning discussion with Murray Biggs. Group dinner followed by evening performance. (B/D)

LONDON
Saturday, October 13
 Morning discussion with Murray Biggs. Group dinner followed by an evening performance. (B/D)

LONDON
Sunday, October 14
 Day at leisure. (B)

LONDON
Monday, October 15
 Morning discussion with Murray Biggs. Group dinner followed by evening performance. (B/D)

LONDON
Tuesday, October 16
 Morning discussion with Murray Biggs. Group dinner followed by evening performance of Ian Hislop & Nick Newman’s The Wipers Times, the true and extraordinary story of a satirical newspaper created in the mud and mayhem of the Great War. Defying enemy bombardment, gas attacks and the disapproval of many of the top Brass, The Wipers Times rolled off the press for two years and was an extraordinary tribute to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of overwhelming adversity. (B/D)

LONDON
Wednesday, October 17
 Morning discussion with Murray Biggs. Farewell dinner, followed by an evening performance. (B/D)

DEPARTURE
Thursday, October 18
 Independent departure following breakfast. (B)

Note: Itinerary subject to change.

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.

A NOTE ON PLAY SELECTION
Some London theaters are still not able to confirm their fall productions as our brochure goes to press. When the final play is selected, we will add it to our schedule and post it online before departure. At least two days will feature an afternoon group excursion.

"Murray was amazing and brilliant as an instructor and as a facilitator of a memorable, worthwhile educational experience. He has my highest possible regard."

-Jenny Katz
2016 Best of Ontario participant

The National Theatre
Why Theater with Yale Educational Travel?

“Murray was such an affirming discussion leader, making everyone feel as though their contributions were invaluable. The varieties of plays and venues were very enriching.

My husband graduated in 1965 and since then he has been a Harvard faculty member. Our experience reminded me of the warm collegiality we used to feel back in the day”

- Ginny Fruhan
2016 London Spring Theater Participant

"Murray Biggs is an excellent leader. I have traveled with him at least six times in Canada, three times in New York, once in London and once in Pennsylvania. Each trip has been well organized and I have learned a great deal and enjoyed his leadership and the friendship of fellow Yale participants!

The educational program requires you to study the plays and consider your own reactions to them in discussions with Murray Biggs and the other participants, some of whom are specialists in the theater genre."

- 2017 Best of Ontario Theater Participant

Program Highlights:
- Tickets to six plays, selected by Professor Murray Biggs.
- Series of lectures and discussions.
- Scripts of plays to read in advance of the productions.
- Accommodations with included English breakfast at the famed Montague on the Gardens Hotel for seven nights beginning Thursday, October 11.
- Welcome and farewell reception and dinner.
- Included dinners on theater evenings close to each theater.
- Private tours of theater-related venues!

Sellout:
Theater programs with Murray Biggs usually sell out quickly. To ensure your participation, return the registration form with payment promptly. Online registration is the fastest way to secure your place:
www.YaleEdTravel.org/londonfall18

Not Included:
- Round trip transportation;
- Accident and baggage insurance;
- Trip cancellation insurance;
- Meals except as specified above;
- Personal expenses such as laundry and telephone calls; airport transportation.

Cancellation Policy:
The deposit less a $300 per person administrative fee is refundable through July 13, 2018, upon receipt of a written cancellation at Yale Educational Travel. There are no refunds after Jul. 13, 2018. We strongly urge participants to purchase travel insurance.
Program Cost

The base cost this program is:
$5,420
(based on double occupancy)

Single Supplement:
$1,500 (limited availability)

A deposit of $1,000 per person is due with the registration form. Final payment is due on July 13, 2018.

Group size limited to 32 participants.

Note: Itinerary subject to change.

Photo Credits
Shaftesbury Avenue at Night image courtesy of Matthew Lloyd, www.arthurlloyd.co.uk.

Terms and Conditions

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL: The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel (“YET”) is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION: The deposit less a $300 per person administrative fee is refundable until December 15, 2016, upon receipt of a written cancellation at Yale Educational Travel. There are no refunds after Dec. 15, 2016. We strongly urge participants to purchase travel insurance. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to our office.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Yale Educational Travel, of which $300 is nonrefundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment, must

Reserve Your Trip To London Today
Book at : www.yaleedtravel.org/londonfall18
To register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person to YET. Final payment is due July 13, 2018.

1) name as on passport
   date of birth       yale connection
   passport origin    relationship to other guest

2) name as on passport
   date of birth       yale connection
   passport origin    relationship to other guest

Contact Information

address

city/state/zip

primary phone

secondary phone

e-mail

Payment Options

- pay by check made out to “Yale University”
- amex  visa  mastercard  discover card

Accommodations

preference

Travel Options

I wish to have a single (limited availability – please call)
I will share accommodations with:

To reserve, return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to “Yale University” to Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010.

Phone: (203) 432-1952. Fax: (203) 432-0587.
2018 London Fall Theater

October 10 – 18, 2018

Professor Murray Biggs
Special AYA Lecturer, English and Theater Studies

“Murray is a gift. We have been on other Yale Educational trips and he is by far the best. It is really an educational experience as well as a marvelously enjoyable one.”

-Ruth and Gene Overton ’61,
Yale Theater Travelers,