BBN-AND-301

**Meta Theatre, Meta Drama** (Meta-dráma, Meta-színház) in autumn 2015  
[Pikli Natália](http://seas3.elte.hu/seas/directory.pl?s=Pikli%20Nat%C3%A1lia), Mon 13:30–15:00, R423/a, *host:* DES (R338)  
3-credit seminar, 30 h/term; *strong prereq:* ANG-001, 211

**description**  
The course focuses on metatheatrical aspects in Shakespearean, Stoppardian and other contemporary plays, considering and discussing different versions, functions and interpretations of several types of metatheatre, such as ceremony/ritual within a play, role-playing within a role, references to other plays/theatre in general, the self-referentiality of drama, other media in drama, and—of course— the play-within-the-play. Based on the close reading, acting out and discussing (excerpts from) the texts, questions of burlesque/parody/carnivalesque inclusion/theatrum mundi/theatricality will also be addressed. **requirements & assessment**  
Active participation in class discussion, short presentations on a given topic in relation to the play/problem at hand, final essay of 4-6 pages.

**Set texts and schedule**  
**7 Sept** Introduction. Handout with excerpts from Shakespearean plays – forms and types of metadrama/metatheatre, basic questions.

**14 Sept** W. Shakespeare *The Play’s the Thing*: *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (close reading, discussion, Adrian Noble’s RSC film version) – „amateur acting” and basic problems of the theatre

**21 Sept** W. Shakespeare: *Hamlet* – professional acting, play-within-the play & politics

**28 Sept** Filmic and stage representations of metadrama in *Hamlet* (students’ presentations)

**5 Oct** W. Shakespeare: *As You Like It* – gender and metatheatre

**12 Oct** Tom Stoppard: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead –* postmodern rewriting and metadrama

**19 Oct** Stage and filmic versions of *RosGuil* (students’ presentations)

**26 Oct** – no class, autumn break

**2 Nov** Comedy and metatheatre: Ferenc Molnár: *The Play’s the Thing* (Játék a kastélyban) (students’ presentations)

**9 Nov** Tom Stoppard: *The Real Thing*

**16 Nov** Epic theatre and metadrama – B. Brecht: *The Good Person of Szechwan*

**23 Nov** Theoretical background and trends in contemporary theatre concerning metadrama/metatheatre (students’ presentations)

**30 Nov** Caryl Churchill: *The Skriker*

**7 Dec** Caryl Churchill: *A Mouthful of Birds* (additional reading: Euripides’ *Bacchae*)

**14 Dec** Conclusion, deadline for essays