

MORE Theatre From Across The Pond

Summer Semester 2026 Wednesdays 10:45 - 12:15

Instructor - Ellen Royer

Maryland Campus (MAB2)

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Course Overview:

Enjoy the experience of a night out at the West End by viewing excellent, well-recorded productions from the National Theatre in London. This course explores a range of styles, from a modern take on a Greek tragedy, to a contemporary story about love and aging, to political plays exploring colonialism. Each week, we will engage in lively discussions about the performances—what we loved, what we didn't, and why.

This is Ellen's fourth year teaching courses in theater history and dramatic literature for OLLI. Ellen loves talking about theater to anyone who will listen, and is thrilled to have a captive audience of learners who are interested in the material she presents! Ellen received her doctorate in theater from the University of Oregon in 1988 and has taught at universities in Oregon, Nebraska, New Jersey and Texas.

SYLLABUS

Wednesday, May 27 - Introductions, Background on *Life of Pi*, influence of Hinduism, Begin viewing

Wednesday, June 3 - Finish viewing *Life of Pi*, Discuss

Wednesday, June 10 - Background on *1939*, Indian Boarding Schools in Canada, quick overview of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, Begin viewing *1939*

Wednesday, June 17 - Finish viewing *1939*, Discuss

Wednesday, June 24 - Background on Greek Tragedy, *The Bacchae*, Begin viewing

Wednesday, July 1 - Finish viewing *The Bacchae*, discuss play and contemporary echoes

Wednesday, July 8 - Background on *Love Song*, Begin viewing

Wednesday, July 15 - Finish viewing *Love Song*, discuss

Wednesday, July 22 - Background on *Grenfell*, political theater, watch excerpts, discuss.

Wednesday, July 29 – No class