

***“Writing about Performance”***

***Prof. Jill Dolan***

***Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 – 1:45***

***Spring 2006***

***TD387D***

***Unique #***

“Writing about Performance” will be a skills-based course designed to workshop student writing for various venues, including conventional scholarly publications; mass media (including magazines and newspapers); and web-based venues (on-line publications, blogs, and other web sites). My goal is to persuade people that arts journalism/arts writing is a viable and vital destination for graduate students interested in performance as public practice. We’ll read exemplary writers, whom we’ll consider as public intellectuals writing about the arts. We’ll read reviewers and feature writers, who remain the public face of arts criticism and engagement in this country, to discuss what they do well and what they could do better. We’ll look critically at American cultural criticism, suggesting ways to intervene in this discourse to make it more nuanced and sophisticated. We’ll discuss how to “translate” ideas unearthed and investigated in our scholarship into public forums. The course will require frequent writing, in projects large and small, but will be tailored to individual needs, interests, and goals. The course will be historical and critical, in that it will attempt to put writing about performance in a cultural context. It will also be a practical, hands-on workshop that will entail quite a lot of peer review and discussion. I welcome undergraduate students who’d like to apply to take the course. For undergraduates and people outside of Theatre and Dance, consent of the instructor is required.