i'm delighted that we'll be hosting the fabulous Katalin Trencsényi at VCA Theatre next week (Thursday 14th) and we'll be hosting a round table.

Details: Katalin Trencsényi and Bernadette Cochrane join with Alyson Campbell and Marcel Dorney to explore together what new dramaturgy means in their own practice and what dramaturgy in the twenty-first century can become.

We are thrilled to be hosting this event and invite current students, alumni and industry/community members.

ROUNDTABLE: ON NEW DRAMATURGY

Date : 14 March
Time : 6-8pm
Venue : Founders Gallery, Elizabeth Murdoch Building, VCA, Faculty of Fine Arts and Music.

In 1993 in Amsterdam a landmark symposium, ‘Context 01: Active Pooling, the New Theatre’s Word-Perfect’, took place focusing on the theory and practice of contemporary theatre. The initiators of this conference started out with the recognition of a fundamental shift in the dramaturgical landscape: that “in many countries a form of theatre is being produced which answers to paradigms other than the traditional (reflected significantly in the play’s dramaturgy), and the realisation that there is currently no terminology available to describe those paradigms in all their aspects” (Van Kerkhoven: 1995). Through the pioneering work of Marianne Van Kerkhoven and her colleagues, this new paradigm, new dramaturgy, a process-oriented way of working, gained not only a name, but a growing terminology, case studies of its processes, and explorations of the questions it posed.

Twenty years later, in 2014, an edited volume (the first in the field), was published by Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, New Dramaturgy: International Perspectives on Theory and Practice, as a collective stock-tacking on how far the field has advanced. In the foreword the editors of the volume stated: “New dramaturgy does not replace traditional dramaturgy; it incorporates it into a wider paradigm. This paradigm acknowledges the multitude of theories and aesthetics, and the diversity of practices (...). They are in continuous dialogue and interaction with one another, and are in a constant motion.”