

Drama and Theatre Studies 2003 Playlists

The following plays have been selected for study in 2003. The plays are grouped into three lists: Drama Unit 3 Playlist, Theatre Studies Unit 3 Playlist and Theatre Studies Unit 4 Playlist. The lists should be read in conjunction with the requirements set out in the Drama and Theatre Studies Study designs and referred to in the introduction to each list.

Teachers should note that the performance of the plays should be attended in the unit specified.

Drama Unit 3 Playlist

The following plays have been selected for study in 2003. This list should be considered in conjunction with the requirements set out in Unit 3 Outcome 3 in the Drama Study design. Students will undertake an assessment task based on the performance of a play on the Playlist. Question/s will also be set on the performances of the plays in the end-of-year Drama written examination.

1. *Mavis Goes to Timor* by Katherine Thompson, Angela Chaplin and Kavisha Mazella

(a) Melbourne Season

Playbox Theatre Company

Dates: 7 February – 1 March

Venue: Sidney Myer Courtyard – Ngargee (adjacent to the CUB Malthouse)

Enquiries: (03) 9685 5165 (Melbourne season)

(b) Victorian Regional Tour

Dates: 4 March – 11 April

Enquiries: Booking enquiries should be made at regional venues

Mavis Goes to Timor is based on the experiences of Mavis Taylor a former haberdasher from Yarrowonga who makes a practical contribution to the reconstruction of East Timor through the establishment of sewing cooperatives. Shipping containers provide various levels for performance and open to reveal various rooms. Slide projection is used to assist with suggestion of place and commentary on the action.

2. *Speaking in Tongues* by Andrew Bovell

HIT Productions

Season and Venue: Melbourne and Victorian Regional Tour – February 21 – March 21

Enquiries: (03) 9521 6899

Speaking in Tongues is the play that inspired the film *Lantana*. Four actors portray the lives of nine different characters in a play told in fragments as the action moves from past to present and back again. The characters' stories are linked by the themes of infidelity and betrayal.

3. *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

Company X

Season: March 6–23

Venue: Athenaeum Theatre

Enquiries: (03) 9689 5206 or 0401 752 940

Bookings: (03) 9650 1500

This modern interpretation of Shakespeare's study of power, evil and the supernatural combines Shakespearian language with contemporary production values including use of an electronic soundtrack.

4. *Moon Babies* by Patrick Van der Werf

Peta Hanrahan @ La Mama

Season: February/May 2003

Venue: La Mama

Enquiries: (03) 9347 6948

Moon Babies features stylised performance using a minimal set. Two brothers hide from their father in an abandoned house where they meet a homeless man who is sheltering from the rain. The boys have developed elaborate role-playing games and a power struggle develops as the man becomes caught up in the game-playing.

5. *Dirty Laundry* by Kate Herbert

La Mama

Season: May/June

Venue: La Mama

Enquiries: (03) 9347 6948

Huong is undertaking a training program in a small commercial laundry after his release from gaol. As he rebuilds his life he attempts to seek reconciliation with his mother. *Dirty Laundry* uses dialogue, projections, puppets and other elements to tell its story and communicate its meaning.

Theatre Studies Unit 3 Playlist

The following plays have been selected for study in 2003. This list should be read in conjunction with the requirements set out in Unit 3 Outcome 3 of the Theatre Studies Study design. Students will undertake an assessment task based on the performance of a play on the Playlist. Question/s will also be set on the performances of the plays in the end-of-year Theatre Studies written examination.

1. *Speaking in Tongues* by Andrew Bovell

HIT Productions

Season and Venue: Melbourne and Regional Victorian
Tour – 21 February – 21 March

Enquiries: 9521 6899

Speaking in Tongues is the play that inspired the film *Lantana*. Four actors portray the lives of nine different characters in a play told in fragments as the action moves from past to present and back again. The characters' stories are linked by the themes of infidelity and betrayal.

2. *God's Last Acre* by Vivienne Walshe

Playbox Theatre Company

Season: 7–29 March

Venue: CUB Malthouse

Enquiries: (03) 9685 5165

God's Last Acre takes place on the one set – a 1950s brick home, on the fringes of Melbourne suburbia. The play is essentially the tragedy of a family struggling to stay together under demanding circumstances and at the same time battling the consequences of a changing Australia. Love, courage and resilience are themes explored in the play.

3. *Inheritance* by Hannie Rayson

Melbourne Theatre Company

Season: 1 March – 5 April

Venue: Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre

Enquiries: (03) 9684 4513

Dibs Hamilton and Girlie Delany are twin sisters about to celebrate their eightieth birthdays. For their inheritance Dibs gained the family farm and Girlie took the money to buy a pub which has since gone broke. The play uses chronological narrative and disjointed time sequences and exposes the prejudices of a range of characters from city and rural backgrounds.

4. *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

Bell Shakespeare Company

Venue and Season:

(a) Geelong Performing Arts Centre – 15–17 May

(b) Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre – 22 May – 7 June

Enquiries: 1300 305 730

Hamlet explores themes of shattered love, honour, truth and deception and betrayal. This production uses lighting and experimentation with the actor-audience relationship to involve the audience in the psychological pressure of the play.

Theatre Studies Unit 4 Playlist

The following plays have been selected for study in 2003. This list should be read in conjunction with the requirements set out in Unit 4 Outcome 3 in the Theatre Studies Study design. Studies will undertake an assessment task based on the performance of a play on the Playlist. Question/s will also be set on the performances of the plays in the end-of-year Theatre Studies written examination.

1. *Noises Off* by Michael Frayn

Marriner Theatres

Season and Venue: Comedy Theatre – 27 June – 27 July
Enquiries: (03) 9299 9830

Noises Off depicts a group of actors rehearsing a bedroom farce and then performing it with things-going-wrong throughout the different stages of the dress-rehearsal and production as the humour escalates into a spoof of, and homage to, the farce genre.

2. *Ruby Moon* by Matt Cameron

Playbox Theatre Company

Season: 25 July – 16 August

Venue:

(a) Beckett Theatre, CUB Malthouse

(b) Regional Tour (tbc)

Enquiries: (03) 9685 5165

Ruby Moon begins in 'Flaming Tree Cove' where security and privacy are precious virtues. Two actors portray the stories and perspectives of characters in the neighbourhood as Ruby sets off to visit her grandmother and is never seen again.

3. *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare

Bell Shakespeare Company

Season: 8–23 August

Venue: Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre

Enquiries: 1800 629 788

As You Like It is a comedy about transformation, loyalty, moral courage and rebellion. In this production the revelation of meaning and importance of metaphor will be highlighted through an organic approach to the text.

4. *Metamorphoses* by Mary Zimmerman

Melbourne Theatre Company

Season: 26 July – 30 August

Venue: Space 28, Victorian College of the Arts School of Drama Theatre, 28 Dodds Street, Southbank

Enquiries: (03) 9684 4513

Metamorphoses is based on the 2001 translation of Ovid's *Metaphamorphoses* by David Slavitt. Set in an unspecified time, the play is based on ten stories from classical Greek and Roman mythology. It incorporates narration and dialogue and is a contemporary interpretation of the original text.

5. *Yanagai! Yanagai!* by Andrea James

Melbourne Workers Theatre

Season: 10–27 September 2003

Venue: Merlyn Theatre, CUB Malthouse

Enquiries: (03) 9685 5165

Yanagai! Yanagai! is a Yorta Yorta performance text set in the dreaming, present and future. A clan of storytellers have banded together to remember a beautiful place they once knew. Some stories are told so that they may be remembered, others are told so that they may never happen again. As the stories are told a land claim is being made in the courts.

Schools should note that in the following plays – *Mavis Goes to Timor*, *Ruby Moon*, *Yanagai! Yanagai!*, *Moon Babies*, *Speaking in Tongues*, *Dirty Laundry*, *Metamorphoses*, *Inheritance*, *God's Last Acre*, *Noises Off* – a variety of suggestive and potentially offensive words and phrases are used. They occur with intermittent frequency and are generally consistent with much current contemporary theatrical language usage. However, this language may invite adverse comment from some areas of the community.

If you have any enquiries contact Imre Hollosy at the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority on (03) 9651 4451.



Published by

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