

# Drama and Theatre Studies

## 2004 Playlists

The following plays have been selected for study in 2004. The plays are grouped into three lists: Drama Unit 3 Playlist, Theatre Studies Unit 3 Playlist and Theatre Studies Unit 4 Playlist. Teachers should note that the Unit 3 and 4 Theatre Studies Playlists as published in this Liftout include additional plays to the lists published in Memorandum 110/2003. The lists should be considered in conjunction with the relevant 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 2004. 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. *The Ishmael Club* by Bill Garner and Sue Gore

Commonplace Productions

Venue and Season: CUB Malthouse: 20 February – 13 March

Enquires: (03) 9685 5165

*The Ishmael Club* presents a non-linear narrative in a collage of styles. Constructed using a 'play within a play' technique and drawing on performance styles including realism, documentary, music theatre and parody. The central characters are Ishmael Club members. Their dialogue encapsulates arguments from early twentieth-century debates about the culture of mateship with its exclusion of women and children and the women's suffrage movement.

#### 2. *The Soul Miner* by Ray Swann

Identity Theatre Company

Venue and Season:

(a) Old Council Chambers, Trades Hall, Lygon Street, Carlton  
4–20 March

(b) Frankston Arts Centre 21–24 April

Enquiries: 1300 366 123

Further information is available on the website:

[identitytheatrecompany@netspace.net.au](mailto:identitytheatrecompany@netspace.net.au)

*The Soul Miner* is a one person play that draws on a range of non-naturalistic performance styles including mime and magic realism. The play is in three acts and is set in two worlds – Gallipoli and a coal mine. Transformations of time, place and character are repeated throughout the performance. The central character, Jim is a miner who enlists and goes to Gallipoli. The play focuses on Jim's relationship with Frank and what happened to them at Gallipoli.

#### 3. *The Collapsible Man* created and performed by Gerard van Dyck

Playbox Theatre Company

Venue and Season: CUB Malthouse 20–30 April

Enquiries: (03) 9685 5165

*The Collapsible Man* uses dramatic and stagecraft elements in a surreal vaudeville setting inspired by slapstick characters of American 1920s silent films. The solo performance relates a tale about a man learning to accept the principles of uncertainty.

#### 4. *The Minds War Made* by Stewart Morrill

Petty Traffickers/Regional Arts Victoria

Venue and Season: 1–19 March (this play is part of the 2004 'arts2go' in-schools touring program)

Enquiries: (03) 9644 1800 or email to [enquiry@rav.net.au](mailto:enquiry@rav.net.au)

*The Minds War Made* uses selected texts to explore the themes of war and conflict. Two gravedigger clowns lead the audience through poetic landscapes to reveal divisions between nations, within families and natural elements. The production is presented in a non-naturalistic style with transformation of place and object. Dramatic techniques such as monologue and black humour are used with a range of performance styles including clowning. Music, choreography and live singing are used throughout.

#### 5. *Dead Tragic* by Geoff Wallis

Impro Melbourne

Venue and Season: Theatreworks, St Kilda 17–28 March

Enquiries: (03) 9534 4879

Further information is available on the website:

[www.impromelbourne.com.au](http://www.impromelbourne.com.au)

The production tells the 'true stories' behind four tragic pop songs: 'Delilah' by Tom Jones, 'Leader Of The Pack' by the Shangri-Las, 'Dark Lady' by Cher and 'I Did What I Did For Maria' by Tony Christie. It is told in a melodramatic style incorporating dance, montage, disjointed time sequences and elements from film noir and 1950s film melodramas.

## Theatre Studies Unit 3 Playlist

The following plays have been selected for study in 2004. This list should be considered 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. *Wallflowering* by Peta Murray

HIT Productions

Venue and Season:

(a) CUB Malthouse 15 March

(b) Regional Tour February – May

Enquiries: (03) 9521 6899

*Wallflowering* is about the nature of marriage and the pursuit of happiness. The play is presented in a heightened naturalistic to non-naturalistic style and revolves around the lives of Peg and Cliff Small, a suburban couple who were once prize-winning ballroom dancers. The action is interspersed with ballroom dancing by a younger couple who represent both a younger Peg and Cliff and their romantic, idealised view of themselves.

### 2. *Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni

Bell Shakespeare Company

Venue and Season: Victorian Arts Centre 18 May – 5 June

Enquiries: 1300 305 730

Set in eighteenth-century Venice, *Servant of Two Masters* is a comedy from the *commedia dell'arte* tradition. The servant, Truffaldino, couldn't be happier with his change of circumstance: balancing two jobs and earning double the wage. But his 'masters' turn out to be separated lovers on the run and staying at

the same inn, one disguised as a man. Truffaldino tries to handle the chaos of love gone wrong and mistaken identity. The principal performance style is *commedia dell'arte*. The production will incorporate comedy, pantomime, slapstick, improvisation and audience interaction.

### 3. *Urinetown: The Musical* by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollmann

Melbourne Theatre Company

Venue and Season: Victorian Arts Centre 14 April to 15 May

Enquiries: (03) 9684 4513

This play is a musical-comedy, which satirises the Broadway musical-comedy genre through stage action and comment. The characters are stereotypical of those found in musicals and production values will be high. The play takes place in a city in USA, sometime in the near future. There is a serious water shortage and private toilets are banned. Public toilets are controlled by a corporation with monopoly ownership; admission charges are high and corruption is rife. In this world protests and revolts are organised by the rebels who are led by Hope Caldwell. People fall in love and the rebels take over, but the city eventually loses its water supply ...

### 4. *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

Company X

Season: March 10–28

Venue: New Ballroom, Trades Hall, Lygon Street, Carlton

Enquiries: 0401 752 940

Bookings: [www.companyx.com.au](http://www.companyx.com.au)

This modern dress production of Shakespeare's story of feud, love and despair is presented in a non-naturalistic performance style using heightened language and a strong visual component. The production includes an original music soundtrack.

## Theatre Studies Unit 4 Playlist

The following plays have been selected for study in 2004. This list should be considered 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. *Minefields and Miniskirts* by Siobhan McHugh and adapted by Terence O’Connell

Playbox Theatre Company

Venue and Session: CUB Malthouse 9–31 July

Enquiries: (03) 9685 5165

*Minefields and Miniskirts* uses direct story telling to the audience through a series of monologues about the lives of Australian women who were involved in the Vietnam War. A cast of female actors evoke the experience of war from a female perspective. The stories are presented in a contemporary documentary style with some use of live music.

### 2. *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare

Bell Shakespeare Company

Venue and Season: Victorian Arts Centre 6–21 August

Enquiries: 1300 305 730

*Twelfth Night* is a tale of frustrated love, gender confusion and misadventures that occur on the twelfth night of Christmas – the tradition night of Misrule when existing social order is undermined. This production looks at the risks taken by the lovers and how far to the edge passions can drive people. The production will examine comedy as a double-edged sword – what appears light is under-cut with risk and danger.

### 3. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by William Shakespeare

Bell Shakespeare Company

Venue and Season: Touring suburban and regional centres between 8–29 July and 1–12 September

Enquiries: Please contact local performance venues about season details. Further information about dates and venues will be available early in 2004 at [www.bellshakespeare.com.au](http://www.bellshakespeare.com.au)

Schools should note that in the following plays – *The Ishmael Club*, *The Minds War Made*, *Dead Tragic* and *Minefields and Miniskirts* – 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.

*Toby* includes a variety of suggestive, violent and potentially offensive actions, where offensive words and phrases are used. They occur intermittently and are generally consistent with much current contemporary theatrical language usage and action. However, these actions and/or language may invite adverse comment from some areas of the community.

If you have any enquiries contact **Helen Champion** at the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority on **(03) 9651 4668** or [champion.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:champion.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au)

*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is a popular and frequently performed Shakespearean comedy. Magic and energy will be the keynotes of the production combined with an acrobatic and youthful cast.

### 4. *Toby* by Abe Pogos

La Mama

Season: 13–31 July

Venue: Carlton Courthouse Theatre

Enquiries (03) 9347 6948

*Toby* is based on a fable about a lie that gets out of control. The play explores themes of racism and genocide. It is set in a nineteenth-century European village but the characters are archetypical. Toby is a social outcast in his community who manipulates his community’s prejudices against gypsies with tragic consequences. The production is presented in a non-naturalistic style featuring verbal and visual symbolism.

### 5. *Bringing Her Home* by Maud Clark and Kharen Harper

Somebody’s Daughter Theatre in conjunction with Playbox

Season:

(a) CUB Malthouse (tbc) August – early September

(b) Regional tour – Bendigo, Ballarat and 2 other centres (tbc) July – early August

Enquiries:

(03) 9699 5961 or [somebodys\\_daughter@bigpond.com](mailto:somebodys_daughter@bigpond.com)

*Bringing Her Home* explores the lives of people who are struggling to find a home, physically and spiritually. The play explores a range of contemporary themes and issues including youth homelessness, dysfunctional families, drug use and alcoholism. The action is centred on Matti’s struggle to keep her promise to keep Nicole’s ten-year-old sister Bindi safe. The play incorporates narrative, transformation of place and character, original music and choreography to tell stories about the characters’ lives and their experiences of ‘the system’, community attitudes and their relationship with the natural environment.



Published by

**VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY**

41 St Andrews Place East Melbourne Victoria 3002 Australia

TELEPHONE +61 3 9651 4300 FACSIMILE +61 3 9651 4324

EMAIL [vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au)

WEB [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

