

VCE Drama and Theatre Studies 2006 Playlists

The following plays have been selected for study in 2006. 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 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.

Notes

1. Schools should note that in the following plays – *Fallen Sky**, *Cargo**, *The Wild Blue**, *Headlock**, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**, *It Just Stopped** and *Dolly Stainer of Kew Cottages** – a variety of suggestive and potentially offensive words and phrases are used. They occur with intermittent frequency. However, this language may invite adverse comment from some areas of the community.
2. While the VCAA considers all plays on this list suitable for study, teachers should be aware that in some instances sensitivity may be needed where particular issues are raised. In selecting plays for study teachers should make themselves aware of these issues prior to students viewing the play and/or studying the script.

Drama Unit 3 Playlist

The following plays have been selected for study in 2006. This list should be considered in conjunction with the requirements set out in Unit 3 Outcome 3 in the *Drama VCE 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.

Notes

1. Schools should note that in the following plays – *Fallen Sky**, *Cargo**, *The Wild Blue** and *Headlock** – a variety of suggestive and potentially offensive words and phrases are used. They occur with intermittent frequency. However, this language may invite adverse comment from some areas of the community.
2. While the VCAA considers all plays on this list suitable for study, teachers should be aware that in some instances sensitivity may be needed where particular issues are raised. In selecting plays for study teachers should make themselves aware of these issues prior to students viewing the play and/or studying the script.

1. *Fallen Sky** by Sally Hardy

Machination

Venue: Yarra Edge Theatre, Fairfield
Regional tour to Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong
Season: 3–11 April – metro, 11–13 April – tour
[These dates are changed from the information provided in Memo 139, December 12 2005]
Enquiries: fallensky_inquiries@hotmail.com or 0402 334 413

Skye Thompson's photographs are her memorial. Through a disjointed time sequence, we meet Skye a seventeen-year-old, who is passionately concerned with environmental issues, struggling with VCE and falling in love for the first time. Her father – and everybody else – doesn't seem to care that the world around them is dying. *Fallen Sky* juxtaposes naturalistic dialogue with abstract and 'Brechtian' performance styles and stagecraft. *Fallen Sky* uses physical theatre, puppetry, projection, shadow screen and chorus in this story about family and the environment in a society obsessed with the individual and consumption.

2. *The Drover's Wife/The Bush Undertaker* by Henry Lawson

Petty Traffickers Inc.

Venue: Carlton Courthouse
Season: 17 May to 3 June
Regional tour: 21 locations, for details contact Petty Traffickers
Enquiries: www.pettytraffickers.org
Bookings: metro season (03) 9347 6142, regional venues – contact local venues (see website for details)

The Drover's Wife/The Bush Undertaker uses the words from Lawson's short stories. In *The Bush Undertaker*, Lawson is the central character and the action takes place in his office with desk, pens and paper utilised as props to create the undertaker's world in a blending of fact and fiction. The same set items are used but very differently to create a kitchen setting for *The Drover's Wife*. Live music, shared narrative, choral speaking, choreography and physical theatre are used to tell these stories.

3. *Cargo** by Sarah Cathcart

Malthouse Theatre

Venue: The Beckett Theatre, CUB Malthouse
Season: 21 February to 9 March
Enquiries: (03) 9685 5165

Cargo tells the story of Mary Bryant, a First Fleet convict. Set in eighteenth century England, Australia, Timor and Indonesia, a single actor transforms into a diverse array of characters who witness the first years of European settlement in Australia. Lighting, projection, soundscape, symbolism and lyrical language are used to evoke the time and the people.

4. *Mrs Petrov's Shoe* by Noelle Janaczewska

Theatre@Risk

Venue: Fortyfivedownstairs, 45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne
Season: 5 May – 21 May
Enquiries: (03) 9533 8852

Mrs Petrov's Shoe is a non naturalistic work that features non linear narrative, humour, transformation of character, time and place, original music and sound design. Anna Lubansky shoots to prominence with her first novel *Mrs Petrov's Shoe* until the real fiction is exposed – Anna Lubansky is actually Ann Loxton and her multicultural heritage is entirely false.

5. *The Wild Blue by Anthony Crowley**

St Martin's Youth Arts Centre

Venue: The Randall Theatre, St Martin's Youth Arts Centre

Season: 26 April – 6 May

Enquiries: (03) 9867 2477

Bookings: (03) 9252 0752

The Wild Blue is a non narrative ensemble musical theatre work that also uses physical theatre, image projection, puppetry, monologue and spoken text. The work utilises the ritual of skydiving and transforms it into a physical and textual metaphor to explore how individuals live with and overcome fear.

6. *Headlock by Kate Denborough and David Denborough**

Kage Physical Theatre

Venue: The Merlyn Theatre, CUB Malthouse

Season: 19–28 May

Enquiries: (03) 9685 5165

Headlock is a non naturalistic work that combines physical theatre, spoken text, movement and visual imagery to convey the story of Shane Ryan and the first 24 hours of his imprisonment. The work alternates between past and present and is set in a wrestling ring that transforms to a prison cell, a bedroom and finally a trampoline floor.

Theatre Studies Unit 3 Playlist

The following plays have been selected for study in 2006. This list should be considered in conjunction with the requirements set out in Unit 3 Outcome 3 of the VCE 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.

Notes

1. Schools should note that in the following plays – *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** and *It Just Stopped** – a variety of suggestive and potentially offensive words and phrases are used. They occur with intermittent frequency. However, this language may invite adverse comment from some areas of the community.
2. While the VCAA considers all plays on this list suitable for study, teachers should be aware that in some instances sensitivity may be needed where particular issues are raised. In selecting plays for study teachers should make themselves aware of these issues prior to students viewing the play and/or studying the script.

1. *Hotel Sorrento* by Hannie Rayson

HIT Productions

Venue: 7 metro locations and extensive regional and rural tour

Season: 20 March – 6 May

Enquiries: (03) 9599 0899

Contact: Nava Clausen

Hotel Sorrento tells the story of three sisters who grew up together in seaside Sorrento. When they are reunited after ten years apart they again feel the constraints of family life and all the dramas that eventuate.

2. *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee by Rachel Scheinkin (book) and William Finn (music and lyrics)**

Melbourne Theatre Company

Venue: The Arts Centre Playhouse

Season: 14 January – 25 February

Enquiries: (03) 9684 4513

Set in a high school gymnasium, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is a musical comedy that satirises American competitive spelling bees. The performances are larger than life and melodramatic while the narrative features flashback scenes, songs and choreographed movement. Volunteers from the audience are brought in at various points to spell words, the student competitors are sent off when they misspell a word.

3. *Doubt* by John Patrick Shanley

Melbourne Theatre Company

Venue: The Arts Centre Playhouse

Season: 5 April – 13 May

Enquiries: (03) 9684 4513

Doubt is set at St Nicholas', a Catholic church and school in the Bronx, New York, 1964. Sr Aloysius is the school principal who directs Sr James that she should be harder on her students and more observant of Fr Flynn's behaviour toward the students. Donald, the school's first black student returns from a visit to Fr Flynn's rectory with the smell of alcohol on his breath. Sr Aloysius suggests to Sr James that Fr Flynn is molesting the boy and manipulates the situation to remove him from the parish. Then she breaks down and admits that she has doubts.

4. *It Just Stopped by Stephen Sewell**

Malthouse Theatre

Venues: The Merlyn Theatre, CUB Malthouse

Season: 1 April – 23 April

Enquiries: (03) 9685 5165

It Just Stopped is a savage comedy of manners that employs elements of farce, political theatre and naturalism to explore our relationship to art, globalisation, death, technology, America, Campari, cardboard boxes and slavery. The middle class world of American couple Beth and Frank is conveyed through a design wall of jelly beans, plasma screen television and laptops. One morning, the world as they know it stops. Bill and Pearl, two Australians enter. They appear to be a similar predicament but their true intentions are quite different.

5. *Carrying Shoes into the Unknown* by Rosemary Johns

La Mama

Venue: The Carlton Courthouse

Season: 26 April – 13 May

Enquiries: (03) 9347 6948 (Maureen Hartley)

Bookings: (03) 9347 6142

Carrying Shoes into the Unknown takes place in Iran where an expatriate family find themselves as refugees after the fall of the Shah. The play uses multiple protagonists, transformation of objects, physical theatre, lighting, props, special effects and slide projections to juxtapose and rearrange images of dominance and subservience. The audience become witnesses as the family attempt to escape.

Theatre Studies Unit 4 Playlist

The following plays have been selected for study in 2006. This list should be considered in conjunction with the requirements set out in Unit 4 Outcome 3 in the VCE 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.

Notes

1. Schools should note that in the following play – *Dolly Stainer of Kew Cottages** – 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.
2. While the VCAA considers this play suitable for study, teachers should be aware that sensitivity may be needed in regard to issues raised in the play. In selecting plays for study teachers should make themselves aware of these issues prior to students viewing the play and/or studying the script.

1. *Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare

Bell Shakespeare

Venues: touring regional, rural and metropolitan venues

Season: 4 July – 29 July

Enquiries: 1300 305 730, bookings should be made through local venues

The Merchant of Venice combines two folk tales, modernised and entwined by Shakespeare. One is the old fairy story of the princess who has to be won by the right suitor. The other is of the merchant who puts his life as collateral for a bond which never could become forfeit, but of course does. In this production, music is used as a metaphor for the civilising and maturing journey to the final scene and the design contrasts the wealth of Venice and the old opulence of Belmont. Through the character of Shylock, Shakespeare portrays a man who it is hard to love but who himself is a victim of prejudice and persecution.

2. *Yanagai! Yanagai!* by Andrea James

Melbourne Workers' Theatre

Venues: touring regional and metropolitan venues

Season: 22–26 August – metro and 29 August – 2 September
– regional tour to Echuca, Portland and Shepparton

Enquiries: (03) 9326 6667

Yanagai! Yanagai! is a Yorta Yorta performance text set in the dreaming, present and future. The play combines elements of puppetry, a Greek-style chorus and naturalistic performance styles. 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.

3. *I Am My Own Wife* by Doug Wright

Melbourne Theatre Company

Venue: The Merlyn Theatre, CUB Malthouse

Season: 7 July – 19 August

Enquiries: (03) 9684 4513

Hothouse Theatre

Venue: Butter Factory Theatre, Albury Wodonga

Enquiries: www.hothousetheatre.com.au

(02) 6021 7433

Note: possible tour to Albury–Wodonga 3–8 October. Please contact Melbourne Theatre Company for details.

I Am My Own Wife is performed by one actor who plays 36 characters in a naturalistic although heightened style. Charlotte Von Mahlsdorf is a 65-year-old male transvestite who runs a museum in her home in East Berlin. Her legal name is Lothar Berfelde. Charlotte agrees that Doug Wright can write a play about her life and tells him stories about WWII, running an illegal bar from her home during the Cold War and working as a spy for the Stasi. Doug wonders about the validity of these stories. Charlotte says that they are proved through the things she has collected around her.

4. *Dolly Stainer of Kew Cottages** by Janet Brown

Soul Theatre Inc. at La Mama

Venue: Carlton Courthouse

Season: 9–6 August

Enquiries: (03) 9347 6948 (Maureen Hartley at La Mama)

Bookings: (03) 9347 6142

Dolly Stainer of Kew Cottages maps changes in society's attitudes to the intellectually disabled through the story of Dolly Stainer who was admitted to Kew Cottages in 1915 as a child of five and lived there for seventy-five years. One actor plays the role of Dolly through shifting timeframes as she matures from childhood to adolescence, through adulthood and finally to old age. Other actors play a variety of different characters. The stage design uses computer-generated images to identify spaces, archival material to support the factual nature of the work and abstract imagery to reflect Dolly's impressions of the world. Stagecraft will also include a soundscape of music, sounds and voices.

5. *In the Family* by Graham Pitts

Positive Women (Victoria) Inc.

Venue: Randall Theatre, St Martin's Youth Arts Centre

Season: 31 July – 6 August

Enquiries: (03) 9276 6918 (Positive Women)

Bookings: (03) 9276 6526 or www.positivewomen.org.au

In the Family is a documentary play that interweaves stories of women who are HIV/AIDS positive. The stories are told through monologues about each character's response to 'being positive', their feelings about being positive and their relationships with their families.

If you have any enquiries contact Helen Champion at the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority on (03) 9651 4668



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