



# 2024 EDUCATION



# UNBOX INSPIRING THEATRE



## **A NOTE FROM MARK**

### **Welcome to 2024**

The live theatre experience can create sparks of discovery for students and teachers that stimulate conversations and imaginations. Not only are the themes of these plays important for discussion, but seeing actors on stage can create its own powerful connection. I still remember my first introductions to live theatre and the life-changing moments that eventually added to my professional venture into acting and directing. I hope that an Ensemble experience can inspire the next generation of artists and audiences. We look forward to further conversations with teachers and students and engaging in a shared creativity that only theatre can bring. See you at the theatre!

**Mark Kilmurry | Artistic Director**

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**ENSEMBLE**

**ED**

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Ensemble Ed is Ensemble Theatre's commitment to the next generation of Australian theatre. Each year we aim to create theatre that is accessible, enlightening, surprising and above all entertaining. Be part of our 2024 season and experience the very best of live theatre.

## SELECTED EDUCATION PLAYS

### ALONE IT STANDS

BY JOHN BREEN

TERM 1 | 25 JAN - 2 MAR

### THE QUEEN'S NANNY

BY MELANIE TAIT

TERM 3 & 4 | 6 SEP - 12 OCT

### THE GREAT DIVIDE

BY DAVID WILLIAMSON

TERM 2 | 8 MAR - 27 APR

### MCGUFFIN PARK

BY SAM O'SULLIVAN

TERM 4 | 18 OCT - 23 NOV

### UNCLE VANYA

BY JOANNA MURRAY SMITH  
AFTER CHEKHOV

TERM 3 | 26 JUL - 31 AUG

### THE HEARTBREAK CHOIR

BY AIDAN FENNESSY

TERM 4 | 29 NOV - 12 JAN

**TERM 1 | 25 JAN – 2 MAR**

**RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 7-12**  
**1 HOUR 40 MINUTES, INCLUDING**  
**INTERVAL**

**BY JOHN BREEN**

# **ALONE IT STANDS**

October 31st 1978. Thomond Park, Limerick. Cheers and jeers echo through the crowd as the all-amateur Munster rugby team ready for battle against the best team in the world, the legendary All Blacks. Nobody thought they could go the distance — but the scrappy Irish lads walked off the pitch with a 12-0 victory.

The game was never televised, but the myth of this historic skirmish lives on in John Breen's fast and funny play tackling the stories of those whose lives were touched by the unexpected win. A talented team of performers cheer, scrum and charge through 62 characters, bringing to life both teams, the fans and even animals!

Sports fans and theatre fans alike will love this mad-cap David and Goliath tale about the ultimate underdogs.

## **CURRICULUM LINKS**

### **DRAMA**

#### **STAGE 4**

Compulsory Study of Theatrical Form/Style (Physical Theatre and Scripted Drama)

Making: 4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.1.4

Performing: 4.2.2, 4.2.3

Appreciating: 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3

#### **STAGE 5**

Compulsory Study of Theatrical Form/Style (Physical Theatre and Scripted Drama)

Making: 5.1.1, 5.1.3, 5.1.4

Performing: 5.2.2, 5.2.3

Appreciating: 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3

#### **STAGE 6**

Studies in Drama and Theatre (Verbatim Theatre)

H1.3, H2.4, H3.1, H3.3, H3.4

### **ENGLISH**

#### **STAGE 4 & 5**

Study of Drama

Outcomes 3, 5 and 8

## KEY COMPETENCIES

- Critical and creative thinking
- Ethical understanding
- Collecting and organising information
- Communicating ideas and information
- Literacy

## KEY THEMES

- Physicality and Movement
- Sport Culture
- Social Class
- Redemption and Transformation

## SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

### Q&A SESSIONS

Fri 9 Feb 8pm

Tue 13 Feb 11am

### AUDIO DESCRIBED

Sat 24 Feb 3:30pm

### LIVESTREAM & Q&A

Tue 27 Feb 11am

### FREE TEEN NIGHT

Wed 28 Feb 7:30pm



**TERM 1 | 8 MAR – 27 APR**  
**RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 9-12**  
**2 HOURS, INCLUDING INTERVAL**

## **DAVID WILLIAMSON'S** **THE GREAT** **DIVIDE**

### **WORLD PREMIERE**

Golden sands, turquoise waters and a lush green golf course — Penny Poulter leads an almost idyllic life in one of Australia's best kept secrets, Wallis Heads.

But when this hidden coastal gem is discovered by the ruthless and immensely wealthy Alex Whittle, ambitious plans to put the town firmly on the tourist map spark a bitter rivalry. Can this human bulldozer with money to burn ever be stopped?

Australia's most prolific playwright David Williamson steps out of retirement to pen **THE GREAT DIVIDE**, a new comedy with wise-cracking commentary on wealth inequality and human greed.

## **CURRICULUM LINKS**

### **DRAMA**

#### **STAGE 5**

Compulsory Study of Theatrical Form/Style (Realism)

Making: 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.1.4

Performing: 5.2.1, 5.2.3

Appreciating: 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3

#### **STAGE 6**

Year 11 Theatrical Traditions and Performance Styles (Realism)

Making: P1.3, P1.4, P1.6

Performing: P2.4, P2.6

Critically Studying: P3.1, P3.2, P3.3

Australian Drama and Theatre (Core Study)  
H1.3, H2.4, H3.1, H3.3, H3.4

*Note: Stage 6 Australian Drama and Theatre (Core Study) lists **The Removalists** by David Williamson as a proposed playscript for study. **THE GREAT DIVIDE** could be an introductory study to the work of Williamson.*

### **ENGLISH**

#### **STAGE 5**

Study of Drama

Outcomes 3, 5 and 8



## KEY COMPETENCIES

- Critical and creative thinking
- Ethical understanding
- Collecting and organising information
- Communicating ideas and information
- Literacy

## KEY THEMES

- Inequality
- People Power
- Capitalism
- Australian Drama

## SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

### Q&A SESSIONS

Fri 22 Mar 8pm  
Tue 26 Mar 11am

### AUDIO DESCRIBED

Sat 20 Apr 3:30pm

### FREE TEEN NIGHT

Wed 24 Apr 7:30pm



**TERM 3 | 26 JUL – 31 AUG**

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 9-12  
2 HOURS, INCLUDING INTERVAL

**BY ANTON CHEKHOV**  
**ADAPTED BY**  
**JOANNA MURRAY-SMITH**

# UNCLE VANYA

**WORLD PREMIERE**

On a crumbling country estate, Uncle Vanya and his niece Sonya work tirelessly to preserve their family's privileges. Visited only by the local doctor Astrov, it's a lonely, mundane existence.

That is until the sudden arrival of Sonya's father Professor Serebryakov and his alluring new wife Yelena awakens long-repressed emotions with devastating consequences.

Celebrated Australian playwright Joanna Murray-Smith breathes new life into Chekhov's tragicomedy unveiling a hotbed of disillusionment and all-consuming unrequited love.

**CURRICULUM LINKS**

## DRAMA

### STAGE 5

Compulsory Study of Theatrical Form/Style (Realism)

Making: 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.1.4

Performing: 5.2.1, 5.2.3

Appreciating: 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3

### STAGE 6

Year 11 Theatrical Traditions and Performance Styles (Realism)

Making: P1.3, P1.4, P1.6

Performing: P2.4, P2.6

Critically Studying: P3.1, P3.2, P3.3

*Note: The Voice of Women in Theatre in the HSC Written Examination features an original work by Joanna Murray-Smith. UNCLE VANYA could be an introductory study to the work of Murray-Smith.*

## ENGLISH

### STAGE 5

Study of Drama

Outcomes 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8

### STAGE 6

English Advanced Year 11

Module A: Narratives that Shape our World

Outcomes 7 and 8

## KEY COMPETENCIES

- Critical and creative thinking
- Ethical understanding
- Collecting and organising information
- Communicating ideas and information
- Literacy

## KEY THEMES

- Love and Attraction
- Loss and Regret
- Environmental Conservation
- Adaptation of Classic Literature

## SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

### Q&A SESSIONS

Fri 9 Aug 8pm

Tue 13 Aug 11am

### AUDIO DESCRIBED

Sat 24 Aug 3:30pm

### FREE TEEN NIGHT

Wed 28 Aug 7:30pm



## TERM 3 & 4 | 6 SEP – 12 OCT CURRICULUM LINKS

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 7-12

90 MINUTES, NO INTERVAL

BY MELANIE TAIT

# THE QUEEN'S NANNY

**WORLD PREMIERE**

Inspired by historical events, a royal scandal ignites a blistering fire between the steely Queen Mother and her children's doting nanny in Melanie Tait's sparkling new comedy drama.

Marion 'Crawfie' Crawford adored her job as governess to Princesses Lilibet and Margaret Rose... until she was ostracised without warning, despite dedicating the best part of her life to raising, educating and caring for the young royals. The reason? A tell-all memoir.

From the creative team behind the sell-out success of THE APPLETON LADIES' POTATO RACE, this blackly funny play imagines a series of pivotal moments between two strong-spirited women harbouring complicated resentment.

## DRAMA

### STAGE 4

Compulsory Study of Theatrical Form/Style (Realism)

Making: 4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.1.4

Performing: 4.2.2, 4.2.3

Appreciating: 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3

### STAGE 5

Compulsory Study of Theatrical Form/Style (Realism)

Making: 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.1.4

Performing: 5.2.1, 5.2.3

Appreciating: 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3

### STAGE 6

Year 11 Theatrical Traditions and Performance Styles (Realism)

Making: P1.3, P1.4, P1.6

Performing: P2.4, P2.6

Critically Studying: P3.1, P3.2, P3.3

Australian Drama and Theatre (Core Study)

H1.3, H2.4, H3.1, H3.3, H3.4

## ENGLISH

### STAGE 4 & 5

Study of Drama

Outcomes 3, 5 and 8

## KEY COMPETENCIES

- Critical and creative thinking
- Collecting and organising information
- Communicating ideas and information
- Literacy

## KEY THEMES

- British Modern History
- Class and Privilege
- Royalty versus Republic
- New Australian Theatre

## SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

### Q&A SESSIONS

Sat 14 Sep 8:15pm

Tue 24 Sep 11am

### AUDIO DESCRIBED

Sat 28 Sep 2pm

### FREE TEEN NIGHT

Wed 9 Oct 6:15pm



## TERM 3 & 4 | 6 SEP – 12 OCT CURRICULUM LINKS

RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 7-12

90 MINUTES, NO INTERVAL

BY SAM O'SULLIVAN

# MCGUFFIN PARK

## WORLD PREMIERE

In the small Australian town of McGuffin Park, the local council is thrown into disarray when the mayor suddenly resigns a week before the mid-term election, despite being a shoo-in to keep his seat. When a self-proclaimed 'sovereign citizen' with an anti-government agenda is revealed as next in line for the top job, two friends step up and announce their rival candidacies. Complicated pasts, a meddling journalist and blackmail rumours push friendships to the limit – can they handle the mess of politics? Or will their friendship crumble under the pressure? Buckle up for a bumpy election ride!

Fresh from the success of BOXING DAY BBQ, Sam O'Sullivan reunites with director Mark Kilmurry for another fast-paced and topical theatrical experience not to be missed.

## DRAMA

### STAGE 4

Compulsory Study of Theatrical Form/Style (Political Theatre and Realism)

Making: 4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.1.4

Performing: 4.2.2, 4.2.3

Appreciating: 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3

### STAGE 5

Compulsory Study of Theatrical Form/Style (Political Theatre and Realism)

Making: 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.1.4

Performing: 5.2.1, 5.2.3

Appreciating: 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3

### STAGE 6

Year 11 Theatrical Traditions and Performance Styles (Political Theatre and Realism)

Making: P1.3, P1.4, P1.6

Performing: P2.4, P2.6

Critically Studying: P3.1, P3.2, P3.3

Australian Drama and Theatre (Core Study)

H1.3, H2.4, H3.1, H3.3, H3.4

## ENGLISH

### STAGE 4 & 5

Study of Drama

Outcomes 3, 5 and 8

*Note: McGuffin Park could be used as a launching point for an interdisciplinary exploration of modern Australian politics in History and Society & Culture units of study.*

## KEY COMPETENCIES

- Critical and creative thinking
- Ethical understanding
- Collecting, analysis and organising information
- Communicating ideas and information
- Planning and organising activities
- Literacy

## KEY THEMES

- Modern Australian Politics
- People Power
- Democracy and Political Process
- New Australian Theatre

## SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

### Q&A SESSIONS

Tue 5 Nov 11am

Fri 15 Nov 8pm

### AUDIO DESCRIBED

Sat 16 Nov 3:30pm

### LIVESTREAM & Q&A

Tue 29 Oct 11am

### FREE TEEN NIGHT

Wed 20 Nov 7:30pm



**TERM 4 | 29 NOV 2024 –  
12 JAN 2025**

**RECOMMENDED FOR YEARS 10-12  
2 HOURS, 10 MINUTES, INCLUDING  
INTERVAL**

**BY AIDAN FENNESSY**

# **THE HEARTBREAK CHOIR**

Trouble is afoot in the old CFA hall on the outskirts of town. When a fracture forms in the local choir, a small band of community misfits are pushed out into the cold. The only thing left to do? Rebrand! They've formed a new group, got a cracking new name and the town's winery is all set for their debut performance. Now, if only they can find the perfect song to really bring the house down...

Celebrating the healing power of music, THE HEARTBREAK CHOIR is a joyous love song to community, friendship and togetherness. Audience favourites Valerie Bader (SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER), Genevieve Hegney (STILL UNQUALIFIED) and Jay Laga'aia (THE LION KING) create the perfect harmony in this life-affirming comedy that is sure to raise the Ensemble roof.

## **CURRICULUM LINKS**

### **DRAMA**

#### **STAGE 5**

Compulsory Study of Theatrical Form/Style (Comedy)

Making: 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.1.4

Performing: 5.2.1, 5.2.3

Appreciating: 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3

#### **STAGE 6**

Year 11 Theatrical Traditions and Performance Styles (Comedy)

Making: P1.3, P1.4, P1.6

Performing: P2.4, P2.6

Critically Studying: P3.1, P3.2, P3.3

Australian Drama and Theatre (Core Study)

H1.3, H2.4, H3.1, H3.3, H3.4

### **ENGLISH**

#### **STAGE 5**

Study of Drama

Outcomes 3, 5 and 8



## KEY COMPETENCIES

- Critical and creative thinking
- Ethical understanding
- Collecting, analysis and organising information
- Communicating ideas and information
- Planning and organising activities
- Literacy

## KEY THEMES

- Community and Solace
- Music and Connection
- Grief and Healing
- Australian Storytelling

## SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

### Q&A SESSIONS

Fri 13 Dec 8pm

Tue 17 Dec 11am

### AUDIO DESCRIBED

Sat 11 Jan 3:30pm

### FREE TEEN NIGHT

Wed 8 Jan 7:30pm



# LIVESTREAMING THEATRE

**Can't make it to us? We're bringing exciting live theatre experiences into your classroom.**

Our livestreaming program broadcasts plays directly from the theatre into the classroom, reaching schools across Australia.

We'll be offering this unique online experience again in 2024 with two productions livestreamed to you as we aim to reach more students across the country.

## **2024 LIVESTREAMING PERFORMANCES:**

### **ALONE IT STANDS**

**BY JOHN BREEN**

Tue 27 Feb 11am + Q&A

### **MCGUFFIN PARK**

**BY SAM O'SULLIVAN**

Tue 29 Oct 11am + Q&A

To extend your students' learning and understanding of the production, a School Resource Pack and playscript will be provided.

**To register, please email [education@ensemble.com.au](mailto:education@ensemble.com.au)**



Photo credit: Karen Watson

## **ENSEMBLE EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM**

Now in its tenth year, the Ensemble Outreach Program is giving more and more students across Australia the opportunity to experience the thrill of live theatre, often for the very first time.

In 2024, we're delighted to continue working in collaboration with The Smith Family's SmArts Program to provide students with an immersive theatre experience. A week-long program of workshops gives them a taste of various production disciplines including set design, directing and stage management.

"We see our partnership with Ensemble Theatre as an exciting collaboration that is providing disadvantaged young people living in low socio-economic or marginalised communities access to live theatre"

**Anne Samonte, *The Smith Family***

**If you would like to partner with us to expand our outreach program, please get in touch at [education@ensemble.com.au](mailto:education@ensemble.com.au).**

# STEP BEHIND THE SCENES

**Curious about the creative process? Come along to our insightful audience events and experience firsthand what goes on behind the scenes.**

## **DIRECTOR AT WORK**

As part of a small group, witness our skilled directors and actors at work in the rehearsal room and discover how a play is brought to life on the stage.

## **POST-SHOW Q&A**

Join an engaging conversation with the cast and creatives straight after you see the play. Simply purchase tickets to a Q&A performance then remain in your seat after the show armed with your burning questions.

## **FREE TEEN NIGHTS**

To give more young adults the opportunity to experience live theatre, at select performances we offer one complimentary ticket for a 13-19 year old when booked alongside one adult ticket.

## **YOUTH THEATRE PACK**

Looking for ways to spend your NSW Government Creative Kids vouchers? Why not use them towards a Youth Theatre Pack and broaden their creative horizons. Creative Kids can experience 3 plays, choosing from the Q&A performances throughout the year. It's a great opportunity for young people to explore their passion for the performing arts and learn more about the behind-the-scenes process. For parents wanting to accompany their kids, we also offer an adult Three Play Pack at a discounted rate. For more info, visit [ensemble.com.au/youth-theatre-pack](http://ensemble.com.au/youth-theatre-pack).





Photo credit: Karen Watson

## PRICING

### MAIN STAGE PLAYS

Student/Teacher\* tickets \$25

### DIRECTOR AT WORK

Student/Teacher\* \$25

\*One teacher attends for free for every 12 paying students.

## HOW TO BOOK

### ONLINE

Complete the online booking form available at [ensemble.com.au/education](https://ensemble.com.au/education)

### PHONE

Call us on (02) 8918 3400.

### PAPER BOOKING FORM

Print out and fill in the attached booking form and return to us by:

### Post

Ensemble Theatre Education  
78 McDougall Street  
Kirribilli  
NSW 2061

### Email

[boxoffice@ensemble.com.au](mailto:boxoffice@ensemble.com.au)

### In Person

Feel free to drop by the theatre and bring us your form.