



HLA Management Pty Ltd

PLAY CATALOGUE

2007

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**David
ALLEN**

In The Doghouse

2 Acts / 4M, 3F

A new and updated version of the infamous "lost" Elizabethan play, "The Isle Of Dogs". The play that almost strangled English Drama at birth, turned a virgin into a raging Queen and her privy councillors into dedicated spiphobes. This play is part epic theatre, part road movie and part stand-up comedy routine; a sixteenth century romp in contemporary underclothes with authorship variously attributed to Thomas Nashe, Benjamin Jonson, William Shakespeare and Arthur Prickshafte. Arthur who...? You may well ask...

Gone with Hardy

2 Acts / 3M, 1F / Requires a pianist

Composer: Terry Clarke

A vaudevillian biography. The story of Stan Laurel before he became the partner of Oliver Hardy, telling of his stormy relationship with an Australian dancer called Kate. This much produced worldwide play features Jock.

Down Down at Dingley Dell

1 Act / 8M, 2F / Radio play

A fantasy/farce set in nineteenth century Australia bringing together Lola Montez, Charles Dickens' son, the poet Adam Lindsay Gordon and George Selth Coppin, the father of antipodean theatre.

Slam, Decco, Steff & George

1 Act / 2M, 2F / For actors aged 12-16, for classroom or school performance. In Australia's distant future, 15 year old Decco defends her territory against all-comers.

Joseph Conrad Goes Ashore

2 Acts / 2M, 2F / Comedy

A mature -aged female student who has literary fantasies attempts the seduction of a Lecturer in English with sadly farcical consequences.

Virtue

2 Acts / 5M, 2F

A university lecturer fights for his reputation against prejudice and intrigue in a narrow-minded community. Based on the 1950s "Orr" case in Tasmania.

Behold the Gay Marsupial

2 Acts / 2M

An early work about a defrocked priest rediscovering Australia after years in Africa. Ripe for re-working.

The Night We Blitzed The Bridge

2 Acts / Large cast / Male and female / For actors aged 16-20.

1942, the night Japanese submarines invaded Sydney Harbour and the night of the Great Jitter-Bug Contest on the Manly Ferry! Comedy, action and a grand suspense finale on the Harbour Bridge.

Pike's Madness

2 Acts / 1M, 1F / Playing a multitude of parts

The adventures of an English school teacher in Australia who thinks he's Hamlet. Black comedy with a touch of the surreal.

Manila Yellow

2 Acts / 3M, 2F / Playing assorted roles.

T.I.E. Community. An expose of the corruption in the Philippines under the Marcos regime as seen through the life and adventures of a street-wise Manila kid and a middle-class university student.

Winner 1985 Australian Writers' Guild Award for Theatre-in-Education

Tina's Troopers

2 Acts / large cast, speaking and non-speaking parts. A play for high school kids, with music. Tina and her band of young travelling performers survive in post-nuclear Australia.

Don't Listen To Gougher

2 Acts / 5M, 4F / Possible doubling

The early days of South Australia presented in the Brechtian manner.

Meat

2 Acts / 5M, 4F / Large cast with all parts to be played by white actors

Uganda under Idi Armin. A political thriller that explores the involvement of the West in his rise to power. A tale of corruption and brutality.

Karen

2 Acts / 2M, 2F / 30 minutes.

Karen can't cope with her separated parents' constant rows. She looks back to happier days.

Upside Down At The Bottom Of The World

2 Acts / 2F

D.H. Lawrence in Australia. The famous writer and his German wife spend six months on the New South Wales coast, brawling, squabbling and remembering England - much to the amazement of their conservative neighbours.

Winner 1980 Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Play

Souvenirs From The Book Lovers Library, Perth

2 Acts / 2M, 3F

In Western Australia, in the 1920s, a young English poet and his wife confound conventional morality. Based on D.H. Lawrence's time there. A sort of sequel to Upside Down At The Bottom Of The World.

Once A Bold Collier

2 Acts / 2M, 2F / Restricted availability

Set in the leitchen of the Moreton's cottage on the Hunter Valley coalfields of NSW during early months of 1929.

Forests Of The Night

2 Acts / 2M, 3F / T.I.E. Community

A young female journalist goes looking for the legendary Tasmanian Tiger with a drunken Irish academic, while her mother, a wealthy business woman, schemes to exploit the wilderness that is the Tiger's habitat. Adventure, conflict, humour and a touch of lyricism and mystery. Might make a good main theatre piece. A lot of special effects.

Florrie

2 Acts / 7M, 5F

The life and times of a fictional Australian Music Hall artiste. With songs and dances. (Written for the Drama Department at Newcastle University. Won the city prize for best production of the year).

Glorious Things

2 Acts / 3M, 1F / Victorian pastiche

In Victorian England, two Australian confidence tricksters, one black, one white, seduce - as they think - a respectable woman into a life of crime. Years later she has her revenge. Not quite as simple a piece as it may sound.

Cheapside

2 Acts / 3M, 1F / A radio version is also available

Multi-award winning and widely-produced play about the murky goings-on of spies and playwrights in the Elizabethan Theatre. Strong contemporary flavour in style and language. Features William Shakespeare, Robert Green and an Australian Cut-Purse.

Robert Greene lives in a noisy, bustling underworld of spies, crooks and punks, fending off the debt collectors and arch-rivals, Marlowe and Shakespeare. A play bursting with life and humour, CHEAPSIDE provides a fascinating account of the lot of professional playwright - and suggests that it may not have changed much over the last four hundred years.

Published Currency Press 1985

Winner 1985 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Drama

Cut & Running

2 Acts / 5M, 5F / Comedy

In the summer of 1929, Arthur Sinclair, last of the great Australian silent film makers arrives in Wagga Wagga to shoot the story of bushranger Dan Rafferty - and uncovers a hornet's nest of dark secrets!

Dance Canary

2 Acts / 2M, 3F / Ideally able to perform together as a band, but can be faked.

Three old jazz musicians get together with a punk drummer and Czechoslovakian saxophonist for a come-back gig in a hospital for the mentally handicapped. Funny, moving, provocative.

Koala Capers

2 Acts / 6M, 4F and a giant koala

A farce set in the studios of a television station in an Australian country town, featuring a giant drunken koala, a stripper and Chat Show Host with a death wish. The ending, which involves a fire, is quite bizarre.

Pommies

2 Acts / 5M, 2F / A radio version is also available

A middle aged Australian businessman remembers the long-ago summer in 1954 when, as a student, he worked in a Holiday Camp in England. Comic, traumatic, passionate, this play explores Anglo-Australian encounters of the uncomfortable kind.

Modest Expectations

2 Acts / 3M, 1F

Charles Dickens on his last legs in Melbourne, riddled with lust, guilt and regret and encountering both fictional and real life characters he sent to Australia. Premiering The Playbox Theatre Melbourne, October 1990.

Published Currency Press 1990

Southern Steel

2 Acts / 7M, 3F

An adaptation of the Dymphna Cusack novel set in wartime Newcastle and examining the loves and lives of a local family of battlers.

Writers

2 Acts / 3M, 2F

A 'behind-the-scenes' story of Harry, a successful playwright who decides he is going to make some 'real money' by writing scripts for a long running TV soap opera, 'Diamond Hill'. But no sooner has he joined the team than he discovers that all is not as straight forward as he imagines. 'Upstairs' has decided to axe Diamond Hill, and use him as a scapegoat. And then there's Alice.

Jack Drum's Entertainment

2 Acts / 6M, 1F

Part irreverent bawdy comedy, part political thriller, this play explores life on the Elizabethan stage and surmises on the mysterious events following Saturday 7th February 1601 when Shakespeare's company put on a single matinee production of Richard II - a play concerning the overthrow of a monarch. The following day Queen Elizabeth I imprisons her former favourite, the Earl of Essex, for leading a failed rebellion against her. The queen's fearsome agent, Frances Bacon, terrorises Shakespeare, the players and Shakespeare's 'dark lady' whilst conducting his investigation into why the players chose to put on that play and discovers they were paid a considerable bonus by the Earl of Essex. On the 25th Essex is executed. Shortly after Will Kempe leaves London to become a writer in provincial exile, while Shakespeare and his company move their theatre away from Shoreditch, timber by timber, to establish The Globe on Bankside.

David ALLEN & Barry OAKLEY

Dirty Books

Paris, 1929. In a meeting contrived by their wives, James Joyce and DH Lawrence come together in a scarring, darkly comic, clash of personality, nationality and literary double-dealing. Sexual skeletons are dragged from cupboards, family secrets exposed and relationships pushed to breaking point in a richly entertaining mix of petty jealousies and grand visions.

Neil ARMFIELD

The Government Inspector by Gogol

(translated by Neil Armfield, Geoffrey Rush, Lech Mackiewicz and May-Brit Akerholt)

An irresistible comic masterpiece that created such a furore when it was first performed in 1836 that its author was driven into exile.

In this classic satire on human vanity, the corrupt, self-seeking officials of a provincial backwater in Tsarist Russia mistake a penniless clerk from Moscow for a government inspector. Through the wild inventiveness of Gogol's comic genius, the play becomes a celebration of the grotesque and absurd elements in human nature and remains one of the greatest comedies of all time.

"Don't blame the mirror for your own ugly mug." Nikolai Gogol

Richard BARRETT

Heartbreak Kid

2 Acts / 3M, 4F

When Christine Papadopolous, a young Greek Australian takes up her first teaching position she looks forward to sharing with her students their experiences of growing up with an immigrant background. But her growing affection for one student in particular, Nicci, throws her into turmoil. Later adapted into the successful long-running television series *Heartbreak High*. Published Currency Press 1988

Words of One Syllable

2 Acts / 2M (mid 50s, mid 20s) 1F (mid 50s)

Frank, approaching death, talks for the last time to his son. They try to surmount the obstacles of sexuality, education, even class, that separate them. Robert and his mother, Kath, are now confronted with the need to invent lives of their own, away from the shadow of Frank.

Premiered at Belvoir Street Theatre 1990

Vital Signs

1 Act / 5 M, 2 F / Possible doubling

Christopher's finally getting his life together. He's got a new lover, tender, handsome James; he's even pursuing his dream of going into business, abandoning a secure teaching job, when his old lover, Henry, turns up in town with the tell-tale signs of full-blown AIDS. Henry's hoping to take advantage of the new treatments, but there's a possibility that he'll be resistant to the combination of new and old drugs now available. Henry's need for support and hopes of repairing his relationship challenge Christopher to deal with the past, and incorporate it into his pursuit of the future.

Favorite Names for Boys

2 Acts / 15M, 3F / Possible doubling

A boy who wants to be the next De Niro in the heartland of Australia is guided by a soft-hearted drag queen. Kevin is a young man with a dream. He wants to be the next De Niro. Simple. Problem is, his corner of the world isn't quite up to speed. What's a boy to do? Thank God for Maxine, a soft-hearted Drag Queen who's got lots of connections.

Favotite Names For Boys looks deep into the heartland of Sydney's west and finds a place where the very idea of gamily is being refashioned. The old roles are up for grabs, but the responsibility for guiding a new generation has never been more urgent.

Commissioned by Railway Street Theatre for the Olympic Arts Festival 2000

**Ron
BLAIR**

President Wilson in Paris

2 Acts / 2M, 1F

This play opens with Edith and Woodrow Wilson in their Paris apartment in 1918. But all is not as it seems. A thriller about the power fantasies and homicidal games of a strange couple on Sydney's North Shore.

Published by Currency Press 1974

Perfect Strangers

1 Act / 1M, 1F

After a long marriage, they separate in a comic and acrimonious dispute over who owns what books.

The Christian Brothers

1 Act / 1M

A moving dramatic monologue in which a teaching brother grapples with personal anguish and a sense of time departed while trying to hold the attention of a class of unwilling students.

Published Currency Press 1982

Revived for Sydney Theatre Company season and regional tour 2003

Marx

2 Acts / 5M, 2F

A dramatic analysis which illuminates the development of Marx's political philosophy during his early poverty-stricken days in London's Soho. Blair explores at the same time Marx's relationships with his wife and family, their maid and with fellow intellectuals. This hero is a young family man on the verge of his great undertaking; a passionate intellectual trapped in a London slum, ruthlessly holding to his vision of a world with out privilege while around him 'children die like flies at summer's end'. In this compelling portrait of the architect of Communism, he argues that dedication to principle, even in the face of personal tragedy, is what distinguishes the great man from the good one.

Published Currency Press 1983

Last Day In Woolloomooloo

2 Acts / 5M, 2F

A rich, savoury comedy very much in the Irish and Sean O'Casey tradition and set in a Sydney boarding house under threat of sale, the play is woven all around a central concern for ordinary people and their lives. Funny, and a sad allegory, and a splendid piece of theatre.

Flash Jim Vaux

2 Acts / 4M, 2F

Composed by: Terence Clarke and Charles Colman.

A ballad opera about a convict who was transported three times to NSW. A boisterous and touching portrait of a Regency dandy turned lag. The play is in the form of a ballad opera, tracing, (rather loosely) the life of James Hardy Vaux during the period 1807 to the 1840s. James was a quick-witted, notorious pick pocket and swindler who led a remarkable full life while travelling back and forth across the globe (all expenses paid). His life crossed paths with many rich and varied characters, some of whom influenced his life, some of whose life he influenced. Either way these are the people who made our country's history. Share their celebration and take heed of their message: Breath deep friends - while you can!

Published Yackandandah Playscripts 1990

A Place In The Present

1 Act / 3M, 2F

A headmistress at a private school awaits her daughter's arrival on a railway platform. She is joined by a professional magician and a wino and finds herself caught by memory and desire.

Published Currency Press in Short Plays, Vol.1

Alive in Dinner Suits

2 Acts / 4M, 2F

This stage play is set in a radio drama studio in 1950 and deals with the activities of the staff of a radio drama department. Initially we seem to be watching these executives acting in a radio play, the play of their own office lives in front of us. In this way the two chief components of making radio drama - the office politics and the actual recording in the studio become one.

A House is Built

2 Acts / 12M, 10F / Possible doubling

Commissioned by NIDA 1993

**Andrew
BOVELL**

Who's Afraid of the Working Class (Co-written with Patricia Cornelius, Melissa Reeves and Christos Tsiolkas)

1 Act / 9M,10F / Possible doubling

This play is a series of four intertwining stories of fringe-dwellers, living in an age of social, economic and moral deprivation. Mostly out of work, and politically uninterested, they work at survival. A gritty portrayal of real life in an urban wasteland.

Published as "Melbourne Stories" by Currency Press 2000

Winner 1999 Australian Writer's Guild Award for Best Play

Winner 1999 Australian Writer's Guild Award Gold AWGIE

Winner 1999 Australian Writer's Guild Award for Best Original Stage Play

Winner 1999 Qld Premier's Award for Drama

Winner 1991 Green Room Award for Best New Australian Play

Winner 2000 Jill Blewitt Award for Best New Play

Ship Of Fools

1 Act / 4M, 4F

A medieval journey for a new dark age, this parallels two journeys separated by time and space. The first journey tells the story of the fools of Basle, who in 1492 were rounded up and set adrift down the River Rhine. The second journey tells the story of eight unemployed and contemporary Australians who are rounded up and sent into the Australian desert on a work-for-the-dole scheme. The play is an exploration of society's treatment of the individual and reveals that little has changed over the centuries.

After Dinner

2 Acts / 2M, 3F / late 20s or early 30s

A black comedy about being single and eating in restaurants. Five people converge on a suburban nightspot to enjoy their meal and the after dinner entertainment. A bitter sweet farce about human vulnerability.

Published Currency Press 1988

The Ballad Of Lois Ryan

2 Acts / 1M, 2F and musician(s)

Lois is a textile worker in a small country town. Life for Lois revolves around the factory, the supermarket and home. The play is about Lois' struggle to free herself from the traps that bind working mothers. Lois wins her struggle but not without paying a price.

Published in "Australasian Drama Studies", Focus Issue No. 2 1992

Speaking in Tongues

2Acts / 2M, 2F / Possible doubling

"...clever, provocative, elliptically resonant and writerly..." – NT Times *"Bovell explores love, marriage, strangeness, intimacy, trust, betrayal, obsession, self-punishment and detachment with generous emotional intelligence"* - The Observer

In the first act of this psychological thriller two couples in unstable marriages inadvertently exchange partners in a night of adulterous encounters. The situation in the separate hotel rooms are so similar that at times both couples speak the same words. While Leon and Jane go through with the infidelity, Pete and Sonja do not, and the repercussions for both marriages are profound. In the second act, we are introduced to a psychologist and her husband. The psychologist disappears one night on a deserted road after her car broke down. As the play progresses and revelatory details accumulate, these two seemingly disparate stories become linked in a chain of coincidences that leads to an utterly unexpected conclusion.

Published Currency Press 1998

Speaking in Tongues is represented in the USA by Dramatist Play Service. It has been produced internationally in many different languages and was adapted for the award winning film *Lantana* in 2001.

Winner 1997 Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Original Stage Play

Holy Day

2 Acts / 4M, 4F

When a child disappears tensions and vulnerabilities are exposed within a tenuous community on the frontier of white settlement. Elizabeth, the devout wife of a missionary is suspected of being involved in her own child's demise. But the men who sit in judgment can't fathom the reason why a woman would take the life of her own child. Linda, a local aboriginal woman knows what happened at the mission on the night the child disappeared. But she maintains her silence. She refuses to recognise the authority of European justice and by doing so she casts herself as a political prisoner. Holy Day is about two defiant women who refuse to account for the unaccountable. It depicts a white community locked in a moral crisis, unable to liberate itself because it cannot face its dark truths.

Published Currency Press 2002

World Premiere August 2001 at StateTheatre Company of South Australia and transfer to Playbox Theatre, Melbourne.

Winner 2002 Australian Writers' Guild Award for Stage Writing

Winner 2002 Victorian Premier's Literary Award

Like Whisky on the Breath of a Drunk You Love

1 Act / 2F, 2M

It's hot. The moon is full. There's not a breath of wind and the air is full of something... it smells like melting tar, like fumes from a petrol station, like the backyards of restaurants, like whiskey on the breath of a drunk you love... It's heady, pungent, illicit, like desire. No, desire is sweet. It's unfulfilled desire, sort of sour ... a kind of lust ... an unforgiving lust.

Sonja meets Pete in a bar and they go back to a cheap motel room.

Meanwhile Christine meets Tony in a bar and they also go back to a cheap room. The catch? Sonja is married to Tony and Christine is married to Pete. A double infidelity. Two scenes of seduction and betrayal are played out, each superimposed on the other. This play was later adapted as Act One of the stageplay *Speaking in Tongues*.

Distant Lights Dark Places

One act radio play, later adapted as Act Two of the stageplay *Speaking in Tongues*.

Winner 1996 New York Festival Gold Medal for Drama

Winner 1997 Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Radio Play

Piccolo Mondo

1 Act / 3F, 2M

Three women over lunch realise the implications of one's affair with a married man. The other two soon come to realise that the man she is having the affair with is, in fact, one of their husbands.

Fever (co-written with Patricia Cornelius, Melissa Reeves and Christos Tsiolkas)

4 Act / 3F, 4M

Set against a landscape marked by a sense of turmoil and deprivation, the connecting image in these four intertwined stories is the river as a line of demarcation that separates people; as a body of water that must be crossed to reach the promise of the other side; as a means of escape from turmoil and delivery to what is unknown.

This play aims to uncover aspects of our society that are complex, difficult and painful to comprehend. It pushes beyond the boundaries of realism, staking out its territory in another direction entirely; one that uses allegory, epic theatre, surrealism and music-theatre to investigate the burning issues of race, class, culture and environment.

Commissioned by Melbourne Workers Theatre 2003

**Andrew
BOVELL &
Hannie
RAYSON**

Scenes From a Separation

2 Acts / 3M, 4F

There are two sides to every separation. Two truths. A fascinating collaboration between two of Australia's most exciting writers. A story which will resonate with anyone who has ever loved and lost.

Mathew and Nina have been married for twelve years. He is forty; a successful publisher. Always in control, his pace is enormous and his path is littered with the discarded souls of those who tried to keep up. Nina's thirty-eight; a journalist. She hasn't worked since the birth of the children. She's restless; looking for something. So when Mathew suggests she takes on the biography of Lawrence Clifford, tycoon, philanthropist and now Australian of the Year, she throws herself into the project with an all-consuming enthusiasm. A play about love and betrayal, about sex, sacrifice and survival, of break-up and break-down, of family, falling in love and getting found out. Published Currency Press 1996 (Revised script for Sydney Theatre Company production 2004)

**Patricia
CORNELIUS**

Who's Afraid of the Working Class (Co-written with Andrew Bovell, Melissa Reeves and Christos Tsiolkas)

1 Act / 9M, 10F / Possible doubling

This play is a series of intertwining stories of fringe-dwellers, living in an age of social, economic and moral deprivation. Mostly out of work, and politically uninterested, they work at survival. A gritty portrayal of real life in an urban wasteland.

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Winner 1999 Australian Writer's Guild Award for Best Play

Winner 1999 Australian Writer's Guild Award Gold AWGIE

Winner 1999 Australian Writer's Guild Award for Best Original Stage Play

Winner 1999 Qld Premier's Award for Drama

Winner 1991 Green Room Award for Best New Australian Play

Winner 2000 Jill Blewitt Award for Best New Play

Hogs Hairs and Leeches

1Act/ 2M, 3F

Hogs Hairs and Leeches is eight small discrete plays which, combined, talk about growing old, regrets, memory, fears and beliefs. It examines many relationships: between mothers, grandmothers and daughters, between women who dance together at their local elderly citizens club, between grandparents and grandchildren who can no longer speak one another's language, between men who fought for good working conditions and young men who would work for nothing. It brings together the old and the young in poignant and powerful drama.

Winner 2000 Australian Writer's Guild Award, Gold AWGIE Winner 1999 Australian Writer's Guild Award, Community Award

Lilly and May

1 Act/ 1M, 2F

Lilly and May is a hard hitting comedy that exposes the myth of a romantic life on the open road. The Bag lady has been portrayed in a popular mythology as a nuggety, rebellious, independent – and sometimes even rich – woman – whose special brand of madness has led her to prefer a free life on the streets, to Welfare or the restrictions of responsible social life. For Lilly and May the reality is far from this commonly held view of eccentricity.

Published by Currency press 1987

Love

1 Act / 2F, 1M

Addictive, passionate and terrible love is what keeps Annie, Tanya and Lorenzo together. They are the most unloved and unlovable of people. Born at the bottom of the heap, they will never shift from under the weight of poverty and ignorance. Yet they talk of love, love, love. Love shifts curiously between these three who use each other, who abuse each other, who suffocate each other, who weigh each other down.

World Premiere Hothouse Theatre, Albury 2005, transferred to Malthouse Theatre Melbourne

Published by Currency Press 2006

Winnier 2004 Wal Cherry Award for Play of the Year

Platform

1 Act / 5M, 4F plus chorus

On an ugly inner suburban train platform in a working class part of a large city young people come and go, some to school, some to hang out, some to sleep at night, some to watch the trains move in and out. Platform is about young people on the brink of adulthood, doing it tough, working through stuff, trying to make sense of things.

Winner 1999 Australian Writer's Guild Award, Community Award

OPA! -A Sexual Odyssey

2 Act / 5F

A vulgar and bawdy musical about women's sexual fantasies, OPA is the story of Penelope as she waits the return of her husband, the wandering Odysseus. But twenty years is a long time and Penelope has her own sirens to lure her to new and dangerous places, to lands of lustful imaginings. When Odysseus finally returns he finds a changed woman.

Jack's Daughters

1 Act / 3F

A man has been murdered, a father of three, a returned soldier and P.O.W., slain. His eldest daughter admits to the crime. His middle daughter confesses that she and she alone is the murderer until the youngest daughter proclaims her guilt. A powerful and dangerous play which examines the effect of World War 11 on a generation of men and the effect of that legacy on their children.

Max

1 Act / 1F, 1M

Max's mother has sacrificed everything to remain with Max. She and Max live in a boarding house and sell newspapers in the city and she has devoted her life to her son's well-being. He is her son and it's her job to look after him and that's all there is to it. But Max is 40 and he yearns for independence which he finds in a friendship with a young junkie named Maureen and in a rich and liberating imagination.

Fever (co-written with Andrew Bovell, Melissa Reeves and Christos Tsiolkas)
4 Act / 3F, 4M

Set against a landscape marked by a sense of turmoil and deprivation, the connecting image in these four intertwined stories is the river as a line of demarcation that separates people; as a body of water that must be crossed to reach the promise of the other side; as a means of escape from turmoil and delivery to what is unknown. It is a stinking rotten sewer poisoning all who take from it and yet, the source of renewal and change.

This play aims to uncover aspects of our society that are complex, difficult and painful to comprehend. It pushes beyond the boundaries of realism, staking out its territory in another direction entirely; one that uses allegory, epic theatre, surrealism and music-theatre to investigate the burning issues of race, class, culture and environment.

Commissioned by Melbourne Workers' Theatre 2003

Somewhere Else

1 Act / 3F, 2M

A play for children up to age 10. There is a woman so shy she doesn't speak. The umbrella man is obsessed with keeping dry. The careful man is obsessed with being safe. The neat woman is obsessed with keeping clean. And then there is Reve the dreamer.

You Still Here

1 Act / 15 performers

A play about being young and Tasmanian, living on an island and dreaming of leaving it and fearing the separation from it.

Dusting Our Knees

1 Act / 3F, 1M

The women in a factory discover they are being paid less than the men for the same work and the discovery becomes the catalyst for them to take action.

The Aftermath

1 Act / 1M, 2F

The story of workers who have undergone a long and successful strike. A friendship is formed on the picket line but is put under pressure when it becomes clear that their struggle is far from over.

Electric

1 Act / 2F, 2M

Following the famous SEQUEB dispute in Queensland workers were black banned, refused work in their own state, forced to leave their homes and friends. The play examines the emotional cost of a fundamental fight for rights to workers and their families.

Taxi a cabaret

1 Act / 2F, 2M

Stories and songs of race and migration in a cabaret form. A taxi driver is after two young women who avoid paying their fare.

No Fear

1 Act / 2F, 1M

Two workers take extreme action against their employer when they are asked unreasonable demands. They act impulsively, righteously and they look mad and desperate.

Last Drinks

1 Act / 4F, 1M

After 25 years Gab is retiring and thinks he can walk out without saying goodbye but a surprise party is thrown for him and the true reason for his departure is revealed.

Home of a Stranger

1 Act / 4F, 1M

The workers at an English as a second language class learn more than English. Inter-racial tensions have followed them to their new country. And learning a new language can provoke memories from a long time ago.

Boy Overboard

Adapted for the stage by Patricia Cornelius from Morris Gleitzman's best-selling novel and commissioned by the Australian Theatre for Young People, *Boy Overboard* depicts a deeply human side of the 'asylum seekers' issue by following the journey of Jamal and Bibi from Afghanistan to Australia. Their dream is to play soccer for Australia in the next World Cup. Before they reach Australia though, they must face landmines, pirates, storms and assassins. Based on real life events, this is a moving play about young people overcoming the confusion of war, politics and the search for safe haven.

Commissioned by the Australian Theatre for Young People 2005

**Warren
COLEMAN**

Buzz (Co -written with Tyler Coppin)

2 Acts / 2M

It's 1990 and Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon, is still there. He has his own TV show but the ratings are plummeting. When the show is axed his communication with Earth is severed and he is left utterly alone. How will he cope? Will he ever get home?

**Brendan
COWELL**

Men

1 Act / 1F, 2M

Guy, Jules & Crazy Bob find themselves trapped in the most important hour of their lives as they struggle to define who they are, what they have done, and the type of MEN they will become when it is all over. Strangely lorded over by the disembodied female voice of Hazel, and the terrifying approach of the 'end', so begins a wildly energetic and often dangerous romp through the dark side of masculinity and beyond...

ATM

1 Act

This play is a series of gritty, moving stories that unfold over one day; all set against an automatic teller machine in a busy city street. We get to know the people who need it, use it, live with it and work near it. A comedy with tragedy, ATM explores the lives of a huge range of characters in the city and the life of the city itself.

Happy New

2 Acts / 2M, 1F

It is New Year's Eve and brothers Danny and Lyle are cleansing in preparation for a new beginning. Next year they'll rise earlier, dream less, get out more, lie less and embrace the Australian dream! But it's hard to remove the dirt when you've spent a lot of time in it.

Locked in a chicken pen at ages 12 and 10, Danny and Lyle had a unique formative experience which burdened them with some disturbing insights.

Rabbit

2 Acts / 2F, 3M

A shock jock, his North Shore wife, their daughter Madeleine (who wants to drop out of law school to become a rap artist) and her junkie boyfriend, Spin, gather for a weekend at the family's beach house. Paul, the voice of reason, has some news. As the revelations unfold it turns out that everyone is hiding something and looking for forgiveness from each other – a forgiveness which occurs deep in the nighttime forest. A dark comedy with serious themes including generational differences, death and the media.

Published by Oberon Modern Plays 2003

Winner 2003 Griffin Award

Morph

2 Acts / 1M, 1F

Looking at the intertwined and co-dependent lives of a young couple Morph explores the shifting dynamics of fear and desire within the created and sacred spaces which we create. Be is damaged goods; bullish, solitary, a one-time roughneck from the Manila oil-fields. Grace is a swan; supple, dedicated, a dancer at the very height of her powers. A misalliance in motion indoors while the world outside continues to advance at breakneck speed. Can Be and Grace hope to rebuild their shattered defences in time to protect themselves from each other?

Published Currency Press 2004

Thyestes

1 Act / 7M

Thyestes and Atreus are the descendants of Tantalus. Entrusted to share the throne, they have turned against each other. After years of squabbling and infighting, Atreus is king and Thyestes is in exile. When Thyestes is invited by Atreus to return and join him to rule Mycenae, he does so - only to discover that Atreus has planned something so repulsive, it harks back to the very crimes of their ancestor, Tantalus. History has repeated itself.

Bed

1 Act / 3F, 3M

In bed with his five most significant lovers, Phil travels from one to another and back again, as we are invited deep inside the intimate life of a tormented genius. An epic journey for Phil, the bitter genius – as he rejects love, abuses love, and needs love – from the 14 year old searching for the boy he kisses to the heavy bosoms of his 73 year old lover Flo. Can he find it or is it too late?

Co-Winner 2001 Sydney Morning Herald / Sydney Theatre Company Patrick Playwright's Award

**Reg
CRIBB**

Last Cab to Darwin

2 Act / 5M, 3F

The story follows cab driver Max Bell's journey up the "guts of the country" which starts in his home town of Broken Hill and goes all the way to Darwin. Max is travelling there in the hope of being the first person to take advantage of world-first euthanasia laws in the Northern Territory. His journey takes the audience on a meandering trip through the interior of Australia and introduces some of its many and varied inhabitants while chronicling the life of one very courageous battler in his dying days.

Commissioned by Porkchop Productions, premiered at the Sydney Opera House 2003 and toured nationally in 2005.

Winner 2003 Patrick White Playwright's Award

Winner 2003 Queensland Premier's Literary Award for Best Drama

Winner 2003 WA Premier's Literary Award for Best Script

Winner 2003 WA Premier's Literary Award, Premier's Prize

The Return

1 Act / 3M, 2F

Late on a stifling hot night, the close confines of a suburban Perth train become a claustrophobic and bitter psychological battleground. Steve and Trev are two social misfits who have never had 'a fair go'. When Lisa, a beautiful young woman, gets on the train the two thugs vie for her attention, through various boisterous antics, which while comical are still somehow disturbing. The journey rides the uneasy line between comedy and terror as the two thugs turn on the handful of commuters. The pressure cooker situation threatens to explode as they near their Fremantle destination, but by the journey's end the line between aggressor and victim has become blurred. Just who is terrorizing whom? A web of intrigue and power which will keep audiences guessing all the way.

Published Currency Press 2003

Winner 2002 Adelaide Fringe Festival Advertiser Southwark Best of Fringe Award

The Chatroom

3F, 3M

An ordinary Australian suburb becomes a battleground as an estranged father fights to win back his teenage daughter's love from another man. Frightened to let her wander the streets, he realises the greater threat may be in her own bedroom. Exposing a disconnected world of people desperately trying to connect in any way they can, THE CHATROOM is a riveting thriller that takes us into the murky vortex of online relationships.

Premiered at Perth Theatre Company 2004

Ruby's Last Dollar

3F, 4M

Ruby Constance is a woman with a past as rich as the dreams of her future. As she sits at her favourite pokie machine 'The Dancing Lady', with only one coin left to her name, her life swirls around her in a cavalcade of memories. Memories that tell the history of Australia's post-war past and tantalise us like the \$50,000 jackpot that hangs over Ruby's head. As we trawl through the scattered remnants of Ruby's life, we watch a little orphan girl from Sydney drag herself out of the gutter to become a Tivoli star only to eventually find herself lost amongst a sea of pokies in a suburban RSL. This is a story of a survivor, a woman who would risk everything to ensure a better life for her grand-daughter but with only one thing left to gamble: her precious, lucky coin. If she drops the coin into the slot, will she win the jackpot or lose all that is left of her?

Ruby's Last Dollar premiered at the Sydney Opera House and toured then nationally in 2005.

"Again, Cribb's writing is as theatrically exuberant as it is thematically ambitious, celebrating in its fluid structure and colourful language the embellishment and poetic licence a storyteller will take in the telling of a good story." Mark Hopkins, Sydney Morning Herald

**Nick
ENRIGHT**

Cloudstreet

Adapted by Nick Enright & Justin Monjo from the novel by Tim Winton
3 Acts / 20M, 17F / Possible doubling / 3 parts

A sprawling stage adaptation of Tim Winton's enormously successful novel of the same name. A huge success at the 1998 Sydney & Perth festivals, the story follows the fluctuating fortunes of two families who inhabit a rambling old house in Perth. Both the novel and stage adaptation have proven to be major works and have each left an indelible mark on the Australian arts scene. Published by Currency Press 1999

Commissioned by Belvoir Street Theatre Company/Blackswan Theatre Company for 1998 Festival of Sydney and 1999 Festival of Perth 1999. Later toured nationally and to London, Dublin, New York, Washington and Zurich.

*Winner 1999 Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Stage Adaptation
Winner 1999 Australian Writers' Guild, Gold AWGIE
Winner 1999 Dublin Theatre Festival for Best International Production
Winner 1999 Green Room Award for Best New Australian Play*

Bobbin Up

2 Acts / 7F, 9M / Including doubling

Based on the novel by Dorothy Hewett published 1959

It is the late 1950s and the Russians launch the first Sputnik. A group of women sweat in the Jumbuck Woollen Mills in Sydney for breadline wages. The whistle blows - grime is washed from faces, hair combed, lipstick applied- and the workers emerge, women again, leaving the factory behind them. Out into the evening streets, flashing neon lights and the journey home to family and lovers. Among them are Shirl, nineteen and four months pregnant; Dawnie, beautiful and fiercely chaste; Patty, singing in the dance halls; and Nell, an active Communist Party member. These women have their own dreams; but a common spirit binds them, and with Nell as their leader they will come together for the fight which lies ahead....

On The Wallaby

2 Acts / 10M, 4F / Including doubling

A musical play which traces through the Depression of the lives of a Port Adelaide family. The misfortunes of the O'Briens are seen in the light of the strategies and manipulations of the politicians of the time; while at another level the author presents us with the death of musical hall theatre and the arrival of radio entertainment.

Published by Currency Press 1982

The Venetian Twins

2 Acts / 6M, 3F

Composed by: Terence Clarke / composite set

This musical romp is based on Carlo Goldoni's celebrated comedy of mistaken identity: twin brothers let loose on one mad day in Eighteenth Century Verona. The double central role is a gift to a bright young comedian. One of the female roles requires a good coloratura soprano.

Published by Currency Press 1996

Daylight Saving

2 Acts / 3M, 3F / 1 set

Felicity and Tom both have busy lives and demanding careers. Tom is travelling with his petulant protege Jason, the international tennis star, when Felicity receives a surprise call from an American boyfriend from her past. As she plans a candle-lit reunion dinner her highly stressed neighbour drops in ... and so does her mother. The confusion becomes complete as each of them become involved in Felicity's evening.

Published by Currency Press 1990

Winner 1990 Australian Writer's Guild Award for Best Play

Winner 1990 Australian Writer's Guild Award, Gold AWGIE.

Summer Rain

2 Acts / 7F, 6M / Multiple sets

Composed by: Terence Clarke

On Christmas Day 1945 a stranded tent-show troupe reach a drought-stricken outback town. Before they leave on New Year's Day, many lives are changed. A romantic musical comedy featuring memorable lyrics by Nick Enright and beautiful music by Terence Clarke.

Revived by Sydney Theatre Company in 2005 starring Genevieve Lemon and Gerry Connolly.

Published Currency Press 2001

St James Infirmary

2 Acts / 2F, 4M / 1 set

In a Catholic boys' boarding school during the Vietnam war a gifted young artist makes a stand against Australia's involvement in the conflict. His fall from grace divides the school and the people closest to him, particularly the young matron of the school infirmary.

Published by Currency Press 1993

The Women of Troy

1 Act / 3M, 5F / Chorus of women / Possible doubling / A radio version is also available

Euripides' Tragedy is a frightening parable of the after-math of war: Hecuba, dethroned queen of defeated Troy, must see her city burned, her family humiliated, as she and her women wait to be lead into exile.

This adaptation was commissioned and broadcast by ABC Radio.

The Marriage of Figaro

5 Acts / 4M, 8F or 5F, 7M

This celebrated and humane comedy by Beaumarchais takes place on one mad day when the valet Figaro keeps trying to marry the maid Suzanne despite all obstacles. This is one of the great plays of the 18th Century and of course the basis for Mozart's opera. This translation was commissioned and first performed by Lighthouse for The State Theatre Company of South Australia in 1984.

Mongrels

2 Acts / 3M, 3F / Multiple sets / Strong language

Burke is an ex-con. O'Hara is an invalid. Both are mongrels, and both are writers. United by their tenacity as well as by their relationship with the powerful Elaine, they make an uneasy bond, a bond forged out of rivalry, affection and suspicion. *Mongrels* is a highly adult play, brutal and comic by turns, a study of love, ambition and human capacity for survival, set in the ferment of the Australian theatre in the 1970s.

Published by Currency Press 1993

Winner 1992 Australian Writer's Guild Award for Best Play

Winner 1992 Sydney Critics' Circle Award

The Quartet from Rigoletto

2 Acts / 6F, 4M / Possible doubling

Rigoletto, its staff of four and some of its clientele, a multi-cultural, multi-purpose, multi neurotic bunch, are united in their need for company. And caffeine. 'The Quartet from *Rigoletto*' is dedicated to the proposition that the greatest gift in life may be the ability to make the perfect short black. Nick Enright comments "I spend a lot of my life in cafe society ... I go there for the coffee, the food, the back numbers of magazines I wouldn't be caught dead buying and, of course, the people. The passers by. The staff: cheerful, abstracted, suicidal, brisk, vengeful, what will it be today? The customers: lost souls like myself who come to work on that novel, comb the classifieds, deconstruct that movie, reconstruct that relationship, kill that hour, plan that life.." A light, breezy romantic comedy.

World premiere at The Ensemble Theatre, Sydney 1995

The Property of the Clan

1 Act / 2F, 2M / Possible doubling / Theatre In Education piece

"I never even knew her! More than to say hello to. What do you want me to do? Bawl my eyes out like all the girls? What do you want me to say? I'm sorry? Course I'm sorry. What happened to her shouldn't happen to a dog. What else? What else do you want to hear?" What you felt. What you're feeling."

Published by Currency Press 1993

Commissioned by Freewheels Theatre In Education Company in Newcastle, and first performed in 1992.

Blackrock (Revised version of **Property of the Clan**)

1 Act / 12F, 12M / 9 cast version available

One night on Blackrock Beach, an unspeakable act is perpetrated. This powerful play raises disturbing but potent questions about the way we live our lives in the 90s. What impact does the media have on our perceptions and behaviour? What effect does peer group pressure and the decay of family relationships have on today's teenagers? For the community of Blackrock - especially its youth - it's time to start looking for the answers.

Published by Currency Press 1996

World premiere at The Sydney Theatre Company, August 1995.

Winner 1996 Australian Writer's Guild Award for Best Play

Good Works

2 Acts / 4F, 8M / Possible doubling

Provides us with a window into the lives of two Irish Catholic families, the Donovans and the Kennedys. Spanning several decades and three generations, this compelling story exposes some of the darker moments that colour many of our family histories. It is a play of remarkable insight, clarity and emotion that has earned a place of considerable importance in the national repertoire.

Published by Currency Press 1995

Premiered at Q Theatre Sydney in 1994

Winner 1995 Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards Best Production

Winner 1995 Green Room Award for Best New Australian Play

Playgrounds

1 Act / 4F, 5M / Including doubling

"Memories light the corners of my mind..." Two linked plays about growing up in the outer western suburbs of Sydney. The first, *The Way I Was*, looks at adolescence and the confusion of young love. The companion piece, *Where Are We Now?* jumps twenty years to Warwick the successful TV host returning to his roots in supposed triumph, but it becomes a night of emotional reunion with the past. The two plays can be performed separately.

Premiered Sydney Theatre Company 1996

Snow Queen (libretto)

1 Act

Composed by: Graham Dudley

One act opera in based on the story by Hans Christian Anderson.

First performed 1985

Spurboard

2 Acts / 7M, 7F/ Possible doubling

Rodeo clown Gil can be played by either sex, or even shared by several actors

A spurboard is a solid wooden structure on which bareback riders train; it can train muscles and judgment, but it doesn't buck like a real bronc. Four young people in a rural town in western NSW mount the spurboard as they face the end of school and challenge of choosing a path in life. For Mitchell, high school dropout and skilled rider, it's the thrills and spills of the weekend rodeo circuit; for his high-achieving brother Greg, it's the night sky seen through his grandfather's telescope. For Mitchell's girlfriend Amy, it's a job in her mother's beauty salon as she commits herself to Mitchell for better or worse; for Amy's best friend Karen, it's flight from an abusive and uncaring family to the Police Academy and a rookie posting in the Big Smoke.

This play was commissioned by Australian Theatre For Young People, and has since been produced by drama schools and community youth theatres. It can be performed by a large ensemble cast in a number of combinations.

Published Currency Press 2001

A Poor Student

2 Acts / 2M, 1F

Five years ago, Haddon Grey was an actor at the zenith of his profession. Now, disabled by a stroke, and too proud to be seen by his friends, colleagues or public, on or off the stage, he lives alone and perhaps in penury, a long way from the city which once acclaimed him. But Thelma Cayley has her own reasons to be concerned for Haddon's welfare. She hires Jez, a young and inexpert actor, to present himself to the reclusive older man as a potential student. But the lessons on offer are lessons in life; the young student becomes a witness and then a participant in the relationship of two complex and vulnerable people. And in the end, the lessons are not only for the young.

Premiered Glen Street Theatre 2001

The Man with Five Children

2 Acts / 4M, 4F

In the early 1970s Gerry, a young film-maker, begins to track the lives of five young Australians. All he asks of them is a day out of each year of their lives, a day when he will follow them with a camera, charting their growth and development by interviewing and observing them. But as the years roll on, and the annual instalment of *Five Children* becomes a national chronicle, their lives becomes his. Are they his subjects or his children? Or his creations? This play takes place over twenty-eight years in two locations: in Australia during the last quarter of the twentieth century, and in the mind of the film-maker.

Published Currency Press 2003

Premiered Sydney Theatre Company 2002

**Tim
GOODING**

Rock-Ola

2 Acts / 2M, 2F

Four archetypal figures from the "classic" rock and roll era - JET, the Rebel; ANGEL, the Devil Woman, PAGLIACCI, the Clown Who Cried; and VELVET, the Little Girl Blue; - fear that their best days are gone. Their music has lost any rebellious potency it might once have had. The four take off in a small plane, intent on crashing it on the site of the old Sydney Stadium and perishing in the fashion of Buddy Holly, before they get old.

A Tentshow Pagliacci

2 Acts / 6M, 6F / Possible doubling

A troupe of travelling comics/clowns perform their version of Leoncavallo's opera "I Pagliacci" - about the Clown who must perform despite a tragic heart - in a tent at a seedy seaside holiday resort. Each member of the troupe has a comic style based on a famous movie comedian/comedienne, from Charlie Chaplin to The Three Stooges & Lenny Bruce, from Judy Holiday & Mae West to Phyllis Diller. The resultant clash of comic styles culminates in tragedy.

King of Country

4 Acts / 4M, 2F and 3 musicians

A Country and Western Musical. "CHOOK" FOWLER, former C & W singer, is now a middle aged lost soul, caught between the Bushman/Digger mythology of his father, and the 'go for it', self-promotional 1980s model Australian represented by his daughter. The family's conflict is in part explained by each particular generation's attitude to "the land". CHOOK is forced to reconcile a past he believes he has wasted, with his lack of a future when the family returns to Tamworth for the annual Country Music Festival.

Published Currency Press 1992

Trog! - The Dignity of Labour

2 Acts / 1M / Restricted availability

'Spider' Webster is an ageing roadie from the days when all the job required was a strong back and a capacity for over-indulgence. But Spider can't cut it anymore. With a bad back, diminished self-esteem, a no understanding of today's technology, he plans revenge on the modern world by making one last tour... just him and his cat...

The Miser

2 Acts / 8M, 2F

Harpagon – paranoid buffoon and incarnation of bourgeois greed - lives in self imposed squalor in a neglected mansion. His children are starved of life and of love as a result of their father's monstrous thrift.

This marvellous classic is full of pathos and ruthless wit. Moliere leads us through a hall of mirrors - we see what it shows us and squirm with delight and shameful recognition.

**Wendy
HARMER**

Backstage Pass

1 Act / 3F, 2M

Rock fans Janis and Razz are waiting anxiously for a glimpse of their idol, Stax Jackson, although Razz's brother is more interested in his skateboard. Stax is really gorgeous, or is he? And who is Brian Cronk? Cannon-the-roadie reveals some very interesting information.

This comedy focuses warmly on the generation gap between parents and teenagers, the hype and artificial glamour surrounding pop stars and the intensity of adolescent passion for their particular idols.

Published by Currency Press 1990

What is the Matter With Mary Jane?

1 Act / 1F

Based on the personal experience of the actor Sancia Robinson, this play bravely examines the nightmare of Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia, from the perspective of one who has made it through to the sanity of self - acceptance. Brimming with courage, humour and poignancy.

Published by Currency Press 1995

Premiere Sydney Theatre Company 1995

**Dorothy
HEWETT**

Bon Bons and Roses for Dolly

3 Acts / 5M, 4F

Composer : Mervyn Drake. Awgie-award winner with music.

The tawdry dreams of three generations - set in a rundown cinema, 1890s to 1970s.

Published by Currency Methuen Drama 1976

Catspaw

2 Acts / 8M, 4F

Composed by: Terence Clarke and Roy Richie

Open stage 1970s musical about drugs, dropouts, conservation and Australian history.

The Chapel Perilous

2 Acts / 3M, 2F plus chorus of 4 or more

Composer Frank Arndt. Open stage with music.

Now more than 25 years old Dorothy Hewett's epic play has grown into a classic of the new Australian Theatre and Sally Banner into a national heroine. A major statement of the woman artists quest for freedom and self realisation in a community uncertain of its standards, the play is full of lyricism, music, satire and self parody. It traces Sally's life from school days, through lovers, attempted suicide, marriage and politics to disillusion and, at the end of her life, the artist's ever-present sense of failure, ironically coupled with worldly success.

Published by Currency Press 1981

Christina's World

1 Act / 2M, 3F

Operetta Composed by: Ross Edwards

An operetta recreating a young girl's memories of her family and her tragic love affair.

Golden Oldies

2 Acts / 2F

A compassionate, satirical study of the loneliness of women within the family, grandmother and mother in turn face the helplessness of frail age and the daughter is left at the last picking over old memories in an empty house.

Published Currency Press (1981)

Golden Valley

2 Acts / 4M, 4F / Children's play with music

Composer: Jim Cotter

A modern fairytale set in the Australian bush. Awgie-award winner

Published by Currency Press 1985

The Jarrabin Trilogy

The Wire Fences of Jarrabin, 2 Acts / 6M, 4F

The Memory Theatre, 2 Acts / 5M, 5F

Pleasure and Palaces, 2 Acts / 6F, 4M

A trilogy about life in a country town in WA between 1920-1970, it tells the saga of shopkeepers, farmers, local drunks, the Bank Manager, a mad lay preacher, Aborigines and young lovers set against the changing fortunes of Jarrabin - flood, fire, war, racism, the rising salt, and an Aboriginal death in custody.

Joan

2 Acts / 11M, 7F

Composer: Patrick Flynn

Open stage with music - a modern retelling of the Joan of Arc story.

Published by Yackandandah Playscripts 1984

The Man from Mukinupin

2 Acts / 3M, 5F

Composer: Jim Cotter

Lyrical celebration with music set in West Australian country town during First World War.

Published by Currency Press 1980

Me and The Man in the Moon (with Robert Page)

2 Acts / 6M, 4F plus chorus of 4 or more / Traditional songs

Australian tent shows from First World War to the Sixties - open stage celebration, trad music.

Mrs Porter and the Angel

2 Acts / 5M, 4F / Black fantasy with music.

Academics journey through a suburban hell.

Nowhere

2 Acts / 3M, 2F

Josh, self-professed derro and ex-communist, lives in a hut on the edge of the Showground in Dry Torrent, a town whose affluence dried up when the river did. He shares his days with Blue, a Vietnam veteran whose car broke down at that spot and saw no reason to keep moving. When Vonnie, a young Aboriginal woman fleeing the city, her abusive pimp and a drug habit arrives, the quiet lives of Josh and Blue are changed forever. The fate of these three unlikely friends is written with compassion and humour.

Pandora's Cross

2 Acts / 5M, 4F

Composer: Ralph Tyrell

Artists, crims and bohemians in Sydney's Kings Cross - a song and dance celebration.

The Rising of Pete Marsh

2 Acts / 6M, 2F plus chorus of 4 or more

Symbolic open stage with music set in Britain in Roman times and the year 2000.

Song of the Seals

2 Acts / 4M, 4F / Children's play with music.

Composer: Jim Cotter.

About seal people and conservation on the Australian coast. An imaginative journey on the sands of Mystery Bay.

Published by Currency Press 1985

Susannah's Dreaming

1 Act / 6M, 2F / Radio play

Composer: Kate Lilley

A lyrical one-act radio play full of the sounds of the sea and of fishermen, the dreams of both mother and daughter are destroyed.

Published by Currency Press 1981

The Tatty Hollow Story

2 Acts / 6M, 2F

Composer: Mervyn Drake

Fantasy with music about sex, love and illusion in modern Sydney.

Published by Currency Press 1976

This Old Man Comes Rolling Home

3 Acts / 6M, 7F / Traditional songs

Romantic realism - life of a working class family in Redfern, Sydney in late Forties.

Published by Currency Methuen Drama 1976

Zimmer (Co-written with Robert Adamson)

2 Acts / 8M

Composers: Michael Driscoll, Tom Flood

Love, sex, violence and tragedy set in an Australian prison.

Zoo (with Robert Adamson)

2 Acts / 5M, 5F

Composer: Jim Cotter

Open stage musical for young people. The fantastical adventures of two Australian teenagers.

**Lally
KATZ**

The Black Swan of Trespass (Co-written with Chris Kohn)

1 Act / 2M, 2F

The Black Swan of Trespass is a theatrical exploration of the Ern Malley affair, one of the most important literary hoaxes of the 20th Century. Devised by two young poets in Melbourne in 1943, the "experiment" caused a literary scandal which rocked the foundations of the emerging Australian modernist movement. Writers Lally Katz and Chris Kohn treat the topic with a combination of serious critical inquiry and irreverent theatrical flair. The production incorporates live music, subtly integrated video elements, taxidermy and original songs.

Since its origins in a tiny cellar in North Melbourne, this show has become one of the most celebrated to emerge from Melbourne's thriving independent theatre scene in recent years.

The Constance Katz Short Plays

A series of absurdly touching short plays about the current state of the universe. Each play has a character in it named Constance Katz – the playwright's rarely used first name.

Criminology (Co-written with Tom Wright)

3 Acts / 3M, 4F

1997: Princess Diana. Mother Theresa. Titanic. While disaster made headlines and the world hurtled towards the next millennium, a death almost went unnoticed in a quiet Canberra home.

Law student Anu Singh held a "send off party" after declaring to her friends she had decided to take her own life. Afterwards, she drugged her boyfriend Joe Cinque's coffee and over the next two days injected him with lethal doses of heroin. What made the crime more shocking was that several of her party guests had known that she'd planned to take someone along for the ride. Incredibly, Singh's eventual sentencing to ten years in prison for manslaughter gave her the time to complete her Masters Degree in Criminology, exploring the causes of female crime.

Criminology was commissioned by Malthouse Theatre and Arena Theatre Company and premiered at Malthouse's Merlyn Theatre in 2007.

The Eisteddfod (Created with Stuck Pigs Squealing)

1 Act / 1M, 1F

The story of an agoraphobic brother and sister, Abalone and Gerture, who, due to the traumatic loss of their parents while teenagers, live their lives afraid of the world together in a tiny room. Here they role play their adult longings and anxieties. Abalone's one desire is to win the annual Eisteddfod (drama competition), while Gerture is spending increasing lengths of time in the imaginary world of her "class room". This year, for the first time, Gerture is joining Abalone in his quest. She will play Lady Macbeth to his Macbeth.

The Eisteddfod premiered in June 2004 at the Store Room as part of the storage season and has since toured to New York theatres PS122 and Richard Forman's Ontological Theatre, as well as having seasons at Downstairs Belvoir Street and the Malthouse's Tower Room.

The Fag from Zagreb

1 Act / 2M

Jeremy returns home from school to find the Apocalypse Bear making him his after school snack instead of his mother. After a while he notices his sister doesn't seem to be around. The Apocalypse Bear is the only one home with him when a heartbreaking package arrives from Jeremy's only friend, the fag from Zagreb. And there is a certain threat, rising from the woods.

Originally commissioned by White Whale Theatre in 2007.

Goodbye New York, Goodbye Heart

1 Act / 3M, 3F (can be played with 2M, 2F)

Caroline is lonely in Melbourne. She's looking for a porthole out of reality. And then she gets an invitation to her friend Japan's wedding. Japan is a suicide, who is now living in Myspace New York. The real New York has long ago disappeared. The Myspace cities are places for suicides and Avalanche Dwellers (people who cannot stop looking into the rubble at the dead). In Myspace New York, Caroline falls in love with a charismatic suicide, named Thornbury. Can they find happiness together, despite the constant threat of the whole site crashing?

First produced by The Production Company (New York) and performed at Chashama in New York as part of The Australia Project in 2007

Hip, Hip Hooray

1 Act / 2M, 2F

The Apocalypse Bear benevolently watches the lives of two couples, Middle aged, quadriplegic birthday Wilbur and his wife Alice, as well as their dinner guests, the famous Pakistani Squash player, 95 year old Hashim Khan and his young, wide-eyed girlfriend Catta. The reckoning, of course, is on its way.

Premiered at Sydney Theatre Company's Wharf2Loud in 2007 as a double bill with WAIKIKI PALACE.

Horse-Girl and her Young Gentleman Friend

1 Act / 2M, 3F

A black comedy that explores young love and the longing to be someone else. Vanessa is turning into a horse. Her boyfriend is dead with froth at his mouth and a hypodermic needles sticking out of his arm. Horse-Girl wants to go dancing, she drags her boyfriend's corpse across town in her taffeta dress and finally finds herself.

Lally Katz and the Terrible Mysteries of the Volcano

3 Acts / 2F, 4M

An existential fairytale for adults on psycho-political themes. The form of the play is a pastiche of Sherlock Holmes style chamber play, disaster movie, expressionist play and music documentary.

Premiered at Theatreworks in 2006.

The Last Episode of the Bubble Teen

1 Act / 3M, 5F

A dark and whimsical semi-musical exploring the shadowy years between childhood and being a grown-up. Bessie, on a quest with a jerry can through the galaxy, witnesses Jennifer, a local in outer space, murder a young girl with a scythe. Fleeing from Jennifer, Bessie seeks shelter in a house where she meets Zeathany who is the same age as Bessie. Zeathany is anorexic and walks constantly on a treadmill whilst watching her favourite television shows. Her favourite series THE BUBBLE TEENS is about Bessie and her friends back in Rivertown. Bessie watches with her, piecing together the horrors that she'd blocked out of her mind and plans an escape for the future.

Originally commissioned by St Martins Youth Theatre 2002

The Liquorice Nurse

1 Act / 1M, 3F

A young girl lies wasting away on her bed, tended to by her hysteric mother, her overly devoted nurse and her doting doctor. As all three seemingly strive to rescue her from her condition, the darker truth behind their relationships is revealed.

Natural Arnold

3M, 1F

Things are confusing for Arnold: his dad doesn't quite understand him, he's not doing so well in high school, he's in love with Wendy who sleeps with all the wrong boys and he gets beaten up at parties. He goes to visit his Uncle Leon for the holidays and everything turns inside-out. A bizarre road trip, a murder in the lake, Julia Roberts and the chance to start again.

Pirate Eyes

3 Acts / 5M, 3F

Three stories about the grotesqueness of jealousy and the longing to own other people's insides.

Dorey wakes on a raft to find a pirate fishing with a human finger and embarks on an adventure to the snow with a hitchhiker to find her missing sister . . .

A detective and his assistant Maitland investigate a murder in a beach house where they find a head and nine fingers in the freezer . . .

A small woman named Minnie falls in love with a giant who she allows to perform operations on her as he tries to find pearls inside her body . . .

Originally commissioned for Melbourne University's Union House Theatre 2001

Return to Earth

3 Acts / 4F, 3M

Alice has come back home to her family and the small coastal town they live in. She's been gone a long time.

Her reintegration into her hometown is awkward. There is something not quite right about her. She has a secret. And Alice hasn't always been her name.

A domestic drama with surreal edges.

Rewberry High

1 Act / 5M, 5F

Beth has just noticed that all the food in her town is made of plastic, her parents smile all the time, and there is a serial killer hacking up all her classmates. Will Beth solve the mystery before it's too late?

Smashed (concept and story developed with Clare Watson)

1 Act / 2 F

A play exploring love, grief, friendship and time travel. When you're fifteen, things like nail polish, skating and school essays make up your entire world, to imagine being a grown-up career woman "buying and selling time" is as real as being present at the Big Bang. In Smashed, Hazel and Ruby are in search of a missing piece that will explain why bad things happen, while they try to find their way back home.

Premiered at Storeroom Theatre in 2005.

The Starlet Twins

2 Acts / 5M, 10F

A dark and magical musical about the unavoidable desire of fate. Two twin girls – one bites off half of the other's face whilst in the womb. On the advice of a doctor, the two are separated at birth to avoid further carnage. One will grow up to become a movie star, the other collects the heads of movies stars in her cellar. Of course they will meet again . . .

Originally commissioned by PACT Youth Theatre 2001

Waikiki Palace

1 Act / 2M, 2F

Prairie and Jack sit on Hawaii's famous Waikiki beach sipping cocktails at sunset. Prairie's French accent is alluring - as is the mystery as to her real age and the source of her overly tanned skin. Jack, 22, may well be onto a good thing. At least until aging party boy Clay, and his toy-girl arrive. And then it becomes a very different kind of love story...

Premiered at Sydney Theatre Company's Wharf2Loud in 2007 as a double bill with HIP HIP HOORAY.

**Jean
KITTSO**

Escape - Passion Series

1 Act / 1F

Against a background of chip fat, blowflies and Country and Western, a waitress hungers for a new life.

Premiered at Griffin 1994, produced for SBS TV 1995

**Josh
LAWSON**

Eleven O'clock

1 Act / 3M, 1F

It is really quite simple: Dr Hawk is a psychiatrist. Mr McMahon is his patient. Mr McMahon thinks he's a psychiatrist. The problem is Mr McMahon thinks that Dr Hawk is *his* patient who thinks that he's a psychiatrist but really *is* a psychiatrist whose patient thinks he's a psychiatrist treating a patient who thinks he's a psychiatrist, not, in fact, the other way around. Any questions?

Shakespearealism

1 Act / 4M

On the 23rd of April, 1564, Mary Arden gave birth to the greatest playwright the world had ever known and his literature would change the English language forever. His name was William Shakespeare. Four years later, Mary Arden had another son. His name was Ralph Shakespeare. There's one in every family.

Work in Progress

1 Act / 3M, 2F

Charlotte Middlemiss is almost perfect. She's smart, funny, attractive, modest and forthright. She has the courage of Joan of Arc and the complexities of Ophelia. She been written by Simon Holden. Simon Holden is a struggling writer. He is impulsive, witty, bright and temperamental. He has the dermination of Moliere and the passion of Miller. He's been written by Josh Lawson, Josh Lawson is a part time actor/writer. He's been written by no one.

**Paul
LIVINGSTON**

Emma's Nose

1 Act / 2 M, 1F

Freud is nervous. It's 1895 and he is just an historical footnote in the annals of psychiatry; but his mentor and inspiration Wilhelm Fliess is coming to town. Perhaps he can help Freud solve the unfathomable condition of one of his most difficult patients - Emma Eckstein. Perhaps Fliess can help Freud get to the heart of Emma's real illness.

Emma's Nose is the story of an atrocity - and the horrific consequences of collaborative self-deception, as Freud aligns himself with one of the giants of German crackpottery. Two buffoons set about curing the world and their victim, Emma, pays dearly. Emma's Nose is a darkly comic play; hilarious, savage and, most remarkably, true.

Her Master's Voice

2 Acts / 1F, 2M

A play for two actors, one male, one female, who appear to be under arrest. It becomes evident only late in the piece that they are in fact two dogs being held in a council shelter. The male dog Hannibal is a hardened pound rat. He's been on death row on several occasions, having been lost, dumped, the victim of cruelty, a runaway, and has lost the urge to play the perfect puppy. He is joined by a young female dog, Bindi, well kept, a pure breed, this is her first time inside. She remains optimistic, insisting her master will rescue her. There has been some mistake. Hannibal harbours a secret; the fact that THEY take everything, including your deepest desires and needs. Her Master's Voice is also about humans, our hopes, and our attitudes toward mortality, love and faith. Hannibal and Binid represent the polar opposites of personality, the eternal optimist meets the terminal pessimist. The odd couple of the canine world forced into one dark night of confrontation and contemplation on the state of being.

It's Alive!

1 Act / 6F, 7M

Set on page 182 of Mary Shelley's novel, Frankenstein, three characters ponder their fate. As the Monster waits for his character to be redeemed, he is joined by a minor character, The Drowning Girl, who is in search of her father and a larger role in the book. Her Father avoids oblivion by taking on many smaller roles in the hope of not being written out. As Shelley pushes toward a conclusion, their situation becomes dire.

A shorter version of It's Alive!, with 2F, 3M is also available

Radio plays by Paul Livingston include Her Master's Voice, This Hideous Progeny and One Eye on Venus (all produced by ABC Radio)

**Tom
MacLACHLAN**

One Thumb Out

1 Act / 5M, 2F

Set in the present when a war in the Middle East has escalated and conscription has been introduced to Australia. Olly, a young, sanguine type conscripted to the army, has no intention to die for something he doesn't understand. Olly meets up with Gemma, a violent activist who has been ejected from her collective for trying to spill blood for peace. When Olly's best friend, Chick, dies from an enemy bomb, Olly is torn between whether to fight for his best friends honour, something his other mates are doing, or to continue his journey towards freedom. *One Thumb Out* is an energetic drama that explores young Australian's sense of duty and asks where and to whom our loyalty lies – to our family, to our friends, to our country or to ourselves?

91% Are Happy

1 Act, 13 characters / Gender and total number of actors can be changeable. "Sexy, sultry Sydney is a gold-medal city that glitters with sun-drenched attitude and seduces with beaches and bodies beautiful. Her Olympic-sized heart charmed the socks off the world during the 2000 Games and continues to beat with passion and pride. She is Australia's premier city" Lonely Planet guide to Sydney. Welcome to Sydney in Summer and a host of quintessential Australian characters. This quirky play has prototype characters including Dad, Son, Ants, Tourist, Truckie, Opera Singer and Hairdresser who all proclaim dramatically about typical Sydney concerns.

**Tony
McNAMARA**

The John Wayne Principle

1 Act / 3F, 4M

In a single gunshot, Robbie is catapulted from 90s househusband to corporate tycoon. Suddenly his world spirals into a comic frenzy of jerks in jackets and suaves in suits while his designer wife dreams of overthrowing Osh Kosh ... *what's a man gotta do to keep his head?* A hilarious contemporary satire.

Published by Currency Press 1997

Premiered Sydney Theatre Company 1996

The Caffe Latte Kid

1 Act / 3M, 2F

Highly charged and savage satire on the corruptions that can eat away at families in the 1990s. A young man leaves a mental institution and goes home to his family. They aren't there immediately, but when they do get together he finds the only way he can get their attention is to hold a gun on them. Screamingly funny, cutting and accurate.

The Resurrection of Grudge Graham

2 Acts / 5M, 3F

Heavy metal rocker Grudge Graham returns from a year in re-hab for his comeback tour. But is his long time manager and friend, Manny, ready for the new improved Grudge? Exciting, intelligent humour from an important new Australian talent.

The Recruit

2 Acts / 5M, 2 F

A crisply cynical play about sports, male competitiveness, pop psychology and the cult of celebrity. This play follows two football agents who descend on the home of the simple but talented young player Stuey to recruit him for their club. Plans are complicated when they find that the week before, Stuey's brother Jimmy committed suicide. Where winning at any cost is the only consideration, the pair wager on who will be the first to sign up Stuey, while engaging in outrageous emotional manipulation of his parents Ken and Meg, who are grieving over their son's death.

The Virgin Mim

2 Acts / 3M, 3F

When Ed and Steve meet old friends for dinner, they're hot. They're cooking. They're on the threshold of a million dollar deal. But tonight they're not talking money. Tonight they're here because Mim is coming home.

Mim McDermott, ruthless lawyer extraordinaire, is back from a Catholic community in Ireland. She's a born-again believer and when she tries to save their souls, she plunges them all into holy hell. Tony's new play is a tidal wave of comic mayhem, as Mim zealously exposes the cracks in her old friends' marriages, the soul-destroying compromises in their work, and the fraudulent foundations of their friendships.

Premiered at Sydney Theatre Company 2002

The Unlikely Prospect Of Happiness

There's nothing like being audited to remind you that everything comes at a cost. Ben O'Sullivan (Russell Dykstra) is having a bad day at the family-run clothing factory. He's back from a business trip to find his brother drunk, his father ripping off suits, his mother dying (again) and his wife off for an erotic massage. Then Zoe Sparkes (Pia Miranda) arrives. Zoe is an auditor from the Tax Office. She's a single woman who can do the maths. Within 24 hours she has taken over Ben's office. She has taken stock. And she has taken off her clothes. Who can blame Ben for falling in love? The best thing is - she loves him back. She offers him the unlikely prospect of happiness. Will he take it?

Premiered at Sydney Theatre Company 2004

The Give and Take

Don is an executive. His mind should be on his firm's latest line of garden sprinklers. But his wife has just told him she's leaving to have tantric sex in Tuscany. When he tells his three children, they aren't surprised; they are a self-absorbed trio only interested in Dad's money. The children will put up with Dad quitting his job. The children will put up with Dad wreaking havoc with their private lives. They will even put up with Dad trying to salvage his family. But when Don bets everything he owns on a horse race, what will three selfish twenty-somethings do then?

The Give and Take sends up a generation that is both idealistic and ruthlessly pragmatic, with a wry eye turned on their wayward parents.

Premiered at Sydney Theatre Company 2005

**Mary
MORRIS**

Australian amateur performance rights only

Blabbermouth

2 Acts/ 4F, 2M

Blabbermouth is the adaptation of another popular Morris Gleitzman novel and is about a young girl, Rowena, who moves to a new country town, and school, with her widowed father who has a penchant for satin cowboy shirts and embarrassing his daughter in public. Rowena hears, but cannot speak and the play explores many issues including disabilities, friendship, fitting in, and how children and adults try to co-exist.

Published Currency Press 1996

Boss of the Pool

2 Acts / 3F, 1 boy, 1 girl

Adapted from Robin Klein's best-selling novel. Shelley is embarrassed when her mother starts working at the retard farm. Why can't she get a decent job? Petra's mother gets cheap cassettes from hers. At the pool, Ben is afraid of the water but hangs around the edge and Tania in the wheelchair is organising a disco.

Two Weeks With The Queen

2Acts / 2M, 2F, 2 boys

Adapted from the best-selling novel by Morris Gleitzman. Colin has a mission. He wants to speak to the Queen about his brother Luke who has cancer. Cousin Alistair would like to help but stress brings on his dandruff. Colin takes the lock off the back door and goes out alone.

**Peta
MURRAY**

Blueback

1Act

A gentle, evocative puppet play adapted from Tim Winton's fable of the same name, BLUEBACK tells the story of an inquisitive boy's journey into adulthood, and his friendship with a grand old fish. BLUEBACK celebrates the magic and mysteries of the sea, and has been described as "a fable for all ages, bringing to life issues of personal maturation, conservation, and the power of place."

Salt

2 Acts / 1M, 2F

Meg is an independent woman who loves to eat and loves to cook. At the age of 42, she finds herself sharing a kitchen with her mother, Laurel, a glamorous 70 year old who carries a can opener in her handbag. A recipe for disaster? 'Salt' takes us to the heart of the matter in five courses cooked on stage, to ask: What nourishes? What starves? Who feeds? Who is fed? A play about love and memory, emptiness and fullness, motherhood and ageing, SALT is a poetic tribute to the ties that bind and the perils and pleasures of the table.

Published by Currency Press 2002

Winner 2001 *Australian National Playwright's Centre New Dramatists Award*
Winner 2001 *Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Best Stage Play*

Wallflowering

2 Acts / 1M, 1F with 2 dancers (optional)

Wallflowering traces the uncertain steps of Cliff and Peg Small, an ordinary couple, as they attempt to save their marriage. One time prize-winning ballroom dancers, they now find themselves out of step with each other, and with the changing values of the world around them. Through the metaphor of dance, the play examines the dynamics of an evolving relationship. It looks at the impact on relationships when individuals embrace growth and change, and begin to tell the truth.

Published by Currency Press 1992

Spitting Chips

2 Acts / 2M, 2F / For 10-15 year olds

'Spitting Chips' is a comedy about grief, loss and anger for younger audiences. The play charts the changing relationship between Sybil (also known as Spud) Adams and her well-meaning, but work-aholic father, as she begins to come to terms with the death of her mother and the inevitability of change.

Published by Currency Press 1995

The Flying Flopps

1 Act / 3 puppeteers minimum / primary school puppet play / the five central characters are represented by multiples of each puppet and one character is ultimately played by an actor puppeteer.

H.B. Flopp, the youngest member of a travelling circus family is preparing for his debut and must master "the trick of tricks". He must confront his fear of the dark and of the trick that one day caused his father to disappear forever. He must also control his imaginary friend, Hector Bully who threatens to ruin everything.

Commissioned by Terrapin Puppet Theatre 1990

This Dying Business

1 Act / 2F, 1M

Set in a lecture theatre where three dying people are giving a formal presentation to a conference audience. Based on research in a hospice, it examines the hospice philosophy and community attitudes to death and dying through the eyes of the patients, their relatives and those who care for them professionally. The play is stylised and based upon image rather than conventional narrative and despite the weighty subject matter it is warm, funny and never morbid.

The Diver

2 Acts / 3F, 2M / For upper primary and secondary students

This follows the journey of thirteen year old Ziggy Baddeley as she discovers a new sense of self. After the breakdown of her parent's marriage, Ziggy, her baby brother and her mother, Clare, move to a new suburb to begin again. In order to deal with the loss of security and all the changes thrust upon her, Ziggy decides to re-invent herself. She plans to start at her new school as a 'more colourful, more interesting person'. At the new school, she meets two other teenagers, and becomes embroiled in the drama of their lives. Theo Casella is struggling to discover himself after years of living in the shadow of a highly successful older brother. Karen Fischer, a champion diver, is drowning beneath the weight of her father's ambitions and expectations. This play takes a comic look at the manly influences, pressures and choices faced by young people as they strive to develop their identities and strengthen their self-esteem.

One Woman's Song

1 Act

This play tells the story of Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker) and the Noonuccal people. Set against four decades of a changing nation, it is the story of a woman's search for her own voice. From the ti-trees of Stradbroke in the 1920's, through Brisbane in the Depression and World War II, into the Menzies dominated fifties and then to the heady days of the Civil Rights Movement in the sixties; one woman saw it all from an unique perspective and wrote what she saw.

The Keys to the Animal Room

3M, 2F

"You can do terrible things to animals and they still love you. It takes a lot to break an animal's heart.."

Julie and Carl's lives are falling apart. They say they are in love but the whole marriage thing is just not working. Raised voices and strained tempers make for ugly scenes. Violence has entered the home and struck at its very heart. With Julie scared and Carl striving for perfection in an imperfect world, they're both caught up in the cause and effect of what society demands. But how do they tell the people they love they're living a domestic nightmare? The guilt of hitting her. The shame of letting it happen again and again. Behind close doors lie the best kept secrets.

The Law of Large Numbers

3F, 2M plus a chorus / number indeterminate

The Law of Large Numbers tells the story of Coral Reith, a middle-aged woman who suddenly finds herself in an "empty nest" after years as wife and mother. Coral's attempts to find kindred spirits and meaningful community lead to dead ends, and eventually she takes solace in the "nearly machines" of local gaming halls. Meanwhile, her home town is experiencing a mysterious proliferation of ants and spectacular antmounds.

This play is a bizarre comedy about gaming machines, and is designed to involve both community members and audience in the performance.

**Louis
NOWRA**

The Wedding in Venice

2 Acts / 5M, 5F For 10 actors

The Wedding in Venice is a comedy set in the 1980s. Cosimo is a flight attendant and apparently a prince. Lady Rosalind Suttor, the doyenne of Sydney society, takes him under her wing in the hope that he will marry her daughter Hettie. She does not realise that Cosimo lives with his handsome partner Robert. Carson Bloom, a society columnist, decides that he will unmask Cosimo as a fraud, first of all picking on his military record, but he is proved wrong. Everyone, including Robert, wants Cosimo to marry Hettie but a day before the wedding in Venice, Carson reveals that Cosimo is not a prince. Cosimo runs off with the best man (Robert). But his final actions are 'princely' - as Hettie says: "He's more like a Prince than a Prince".

The Language of the Gods

2 Acts / 6M, 6F / Possible doubling

Sulawesi, 1946. As the people's movement rolls inexorably towards the establishment of an Indonesian republic, Dutch colonial rule is on the brink of collapse. The Braak family faces the inevitable, but not before confronting the truth about their own lives and the legacy they will leave behind. A remarkable insight into turbulent times and a powerful human drama about people whose lives are set to change forever.

Published by Currency Press 1999

Sunrise

2 Acts / 7M, 6F

The garden of an Australian country estate, the sixtieth birthday celebrations of patriarch and scientist Clarrie Shelton, the "tribal get-together" of the family, the comings and goings of their friends and relations over an Easter weekend that begins at twilight and ends at sunrise. In this foreboding atmosphere of privilege and pleasure Louis Nowra explores the mysterious chasm between what we do and what we dream and say. The family of a pastoralist gather for his 60th birthday and revive old loves and fears. Unspoken disorders flare up with the suddenness of a bushfire, doing violence to the people and the land. Publ. Current theatre series with Lighthouse.

Published by Currency Press 1983

Visions

2 Acts / 13M, 6F

Composer: Sarah de Jong

This play is set in Paraguay of the 1860s during the War of the Triple Alliance, the bloodiest conflict in Latin American history. The megalomaniac President Lopez has married Madame Lynch, a Partisan courtesan. His ignorance and her egotism together bring ruin on the country themselves. Against this violent background of bungled diplomacy, death and superstition, is set an allegory of conflicting values, where visions of the civilised arts of peace sacrifice a nation to its own barbarity.

Published by Currency Press 1979

Inner Voices

1 Act / 5M, 3F

This play demonstrates a preoccupation with isolation and the exercise of power through the imagination. The central character is held prisoner by men whose ignorance is matched only by their ambition. The son of Catherine the Great, locked away since childhood, is set upon the throne of Russia knowing only his name.

Published by Currency Press 1977

Inside the Island

2 Acts / 12M, 4F

Louis Nowra pursues his concern with the mechanics of power and the ways convention protects the privileged from human nature in this compelling play. Set in a farming district of western New South Wales in 1912, it is demonstrated how a matriarchal imitation of English society is destroyed by an outbreak of 'holy fire', madness from a wheat fungus.

Published by Currency Press 1982

Albert Names Edward

1 Act / 2M / A radio version is also available

An early play about an amnesiac holed up in the fantasy world of Mickey Spillane. The play explores the relationship between speech and thought in the shaping of perceptions.

Published by Currency Press 1983

The Precious Woman

1 Act / 4F, 10M

Concerns power and privilege. Set in the 1920s in China, the child-like Us-ling learns that there is no place for compassion in the execution of social change.

Published by Currency Press 1982

Capricornia

3 Acts / 15M, 13F

Xavier Herbert's classic novel of racial conflict in the Northern Territory during the 30s has been expertly dramatised in this powerful and moving story of a man's journey of self discovery when he learns the truth of his Aboriginal parentage.

Published by Currency Press Theatre Series 1988

The Golden Age

2 Acts / 10M, 6F

An epic play about two young hikers who accidentally discover a lost community in the horizontal forests of Tasmania. Lost in time, the group clashes with the culture of modern Australia with tragic consequences. A study based on a true story of the relationship between language and culture.

Published by Currency Press 1989 and Dramatic Publishing Company 1990

Byzantine Flowers

2 Acts / 4M, 2F

Set during the First World War in Northern Queensland, it is a story of a half kanaka islander girl, Roma and a half caste Aboriginal boy, Eddie who are itinerant canecutters. Before going off to war Eddie gets Roma a job in the house of the plantation owner, Mr Harris. In his 60s and a widower he falls in love with Roma as she does with him, or does she? Eddie returns from the horror of the war to discover his girlfriend seems to be in love with both of them. The confrontation that eventually results will make Roma not only wiser but perhaps matriarch of the plantation.

Published by Five Islands press 2000

Summer of the Aliens

2 Acts / 4M, 4F

It is 1962 and the world is worried about the Cuban missile crisis, except for Lewis, a youth on the cusp of manhood, growing up in a Melbourne housing commission suburb. He is preoccupied by flying saucer, much to the disgust of his friend Brian who can think only of losing his virginity. Lewis finds a natural soulmate in local tom-boy, Dulcie, who has her own confusions about approaching womanhood. And then out of nowhere Lewis's errant father returns to stay, as if he had never gone.

Published by Currency Press 1992

Cosi

3 Acts / 7M, 4F

A young director, Lewis gets to do his first production. The trouble is, he has mental patients for a cast and they want to do an opera, even though there is no orchestra and no one can sing. But the highly strung Mozart fanatic Roy is determined. Against the odds and amid the mayhem of the asylum, Lewis agrees. He then attempts to get the opera on the boards with the help of pyromaniac Doug; Julie, an attractive junkie; obsessive, compulsive Ruth; amorous Cherry and emotionally paralysed legal eagle Henry.

Published by Currency Press 1992

Winner 1992 NSW Premier's Literary Award

Radiance

2 Acts / 3 F

On the outskirts of a sleepy seaside town in Northern Queensland stands an old house shrouded in mystery. Three half sisters return to this childhood home on the eve of their mother's funeral, but they do more than just bury their mother. Their bonds are elusive, tentative, born of a broken past webbed in secrets, lies, deceit and shame. Now driven by needs long buried, and a half conscious but burning desire to know the truth and exorcise the ghosts of the past they unleash secrets on this one night that will change their lives forever. This is the one night of the year when the tide goes out and they can walk across the mudflats to the island....if they have the courage.

Published by Currency Press 1993

The Temple

3 Acts / 8F, 13M

Time when money was cheap so long as you had the guts to ask for it. Laurie Blake did and with it he built his Bridges of Dreams. A small debt might have been his problem, but a billion dollar debt was the banks'. It is a ferocious and funny portrait of the rise and rise of a former truckie and slaughterhouse owner turned entrepreneur. A womaniser, art collector and friend to prime ministers, Laurie Blake, the takeover king of Australia, rampages his way through a decade when the whole country seemed out of control.

Published by Currency Press 1993

Winner 1994 Victorian Premier's Literary Award

Crow

1 Act / 1F, 13M

This is the tale of an aboriginal woman nicknamed Crow. She has been fighting the government for years to win back a tin mine which is rightfully hers. Mercurial, stubborn, sexy and irreverent, she never gives in even if at times she is her own worst enemy. Set in 1942 during the bombing of Darwin, this is a moving picture of an extraordinary world. A frontier melting pot peopled by nightsoil collectors, soldiers, flying ghosts, a transvestite, a chinaman with a myriad of get-rich-quick schemes and CROW'S two sons, one of whom is a travelling boxer, the other with a talent for swallowing live mice.

Published by Currency Press 1994

The Incorruptible

1F, 10M

Ion Stafford, *The Incorruptible*, is the quintessential man of the land. Chosen by the powerbrokers to be the ideal politician he soon turns the tables on those who think they can control him and starts his own crusade for ultimate power.

Published by Currency Press 1995

Premiered at Playbox 1995

The Watchtower

4F, 8M

Set in a Blue Mountains TB sanatorium from 1939 to 1945. The story of what happens to a group of TB patients who must wait to be cured as the world is engulfed in the second world war. The disease has determined everyone's lives. Some patients die, others live, and in the end a sense of hope prevails over despair.

Published by Yackandandah Press 1992

The Jungle

1 Act / 20 parts / 5 actors

16 self contained playlets set over 24 hours from dawn to dawn in Sydney. Moving from the streets of Kings Cross to the harbour views of a penthouse apartment, connections are made between characters and situations in bizarre and revelatory ways... an inspector, searching for stolen abalone, is trapped by a Kurt Cobain fanatic who is about to urinate on him; a Kings Cross policeman, who's been speeding for 24 hours, questions a prostitute over stolen drugs; a gay Sydney businessman acquires a young and very brash Romanian lover. And there's an alien roaming the streets... the resulting picture is of a city and people existing within an almost amoral randomness but where a little kindness goes a long way.

Published by Five islands Press 1998

Premiered at Sydney Theatre Company 1995

Beatrice

1 Act / 9F, 2M

Beatrice lives in a run down terrace in Woolloomooloo with her sister, her mum and her mother's current boyfriend. Thirteen years old, autistic and disconnected from her dysfunctional family, Beatrice takes refuge in her mind. There, she delights in the music and videos of a bygone era: The Thin Man, Frank Sinatra and The Rat Pack. Dragged along by her begrudging sister, Beatrice becomes involved in a community worker's bizarre attempt at a nativity performance. When her cherished music is sold, a tuxedoed Fairy Pack (an imaginative answer to the Rat Pack) come in to her life to help get the records back, solve a murder and give her the confidence to shine like a star.

Miss Bosnia

1 Act / 7F, 1M

1993. Sarajevo. Mira is a big-haired super-bitch, a former Miss Yugoslavia. She's running the first Miss Bosnia pageant as a morale-booster for the shattered city. Self elected organiser of this inaugural beauty contest, Mira has her own reasons for wanting it to succeed. The six contestants are a motley bunch. This is more than an chance to represent Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Miss World pageant. First prize is a coveted seat on the last UN convoy out of Sarajevo. Who wouldn't put brains and bodies on the line? Longing, love and lust mingle with the smell of fear and war and power is the ultimate ruler ... but who has the power? Shy yet alluring Lidija, an elegant Goddess - draws you in with her mystic appeal. Who is she... what is her story? Why does the very presence of General Jez fill her with dread and terror? Boris is a young disillusioned soldier desperate to escape the war. Could the pageant be his ticket out? And could his connection with General Jez secure his escape? Bitchery is rife, adrenalin is the drug of choice, the comedy is bayonet sharp and the talent quest is raucously hilarious. In a world made sick by war, laughter is still the best, perhaps the only medicine. Based on a bizarre but true story, this bitterly funny play is a witty look at the politics of swimsuit parades, and a sombre condemnation of the horror of war.

The Woman With Dog's Eyes

2 Acts / 4M, 1F

It's the night of the winter solstice. Malcolm and Penny Boyce have returned to the site of their wedding night for their fortieth wedding anniversary; a famous old hotel. Since that idyllic night forty years ago, much has passed. And died. Malcolm has ascended to the pinnacle of industry and is now a millionaire magnate. Along the way he has betrayed his wife, drawn two of his sons into his empire and greed, and banished a third from his life all together. Malcolm, believing his family to be in ignorance of the fact that his death is imminent, has arranged for a complete re-enactment of that golden wedding night. But his wife and sons have learned that his days are numbered and arrange for the surprise arrival of the estranged son, Todd. Todd's arrival and this mother's plea for his re-entry into the family fold brings to the surface a chain of bitter memories and half-forgotten vendettas. Finally, Penny who seems to be the servant of this house of men – reveals her own complete mastery of them all – and by force of her knowledge of them all pushes and bullies the family to hold together.

Published by Currency Press 2006 as first part of ***The Boyce Trilogy***

World Premiere Griffin Theatre, Sydney 2004

The Marvellous Boy

2 Acts / 4M, 1F

Hugely entertaining new play...bursting through with vivid, unexpected life.
TIME Magazine

This play follows *The Woman with Dogs Eyes* as part two of a trilogy about dynastic succession in a family at war. Youngest son, Luke embarks on a crash course in managing the company after his father, Malcolm, learns he has terminal cancer. Luke is hungry to prove himself and a definite risk taker. He is introduced to underworld identity Ray Pollard, his soft-hearted, hearing-impaired sidekick Victor and Esther, a campaigner determined to expose Malcolm's alleged wrongdoings to the world. With the intention of dampening her efforts to sabotage the company's next building project, Luke seduces Esther and falls for her, unaware she was his father's mistress for ten years shifting his journey from ignorance to the truth about his father's ruthless lust for power, and his own vulnerability.

Published by Currency Press 2006 as part two of ***The Boyce Trilogy***

World Premiere Griffin Theatre, Sydney 2005

The Emperor of Sydney

2 Acts / 3M, 2F

As their father dies in the master bedroom above the huge Beauchamp mansion living room, three sons fight for control of the family construction company.

There are two immediate problems - the company is near bankruptcy because of a huge stalled project (their father's personal vision) and they are facing a criminal investigation into the father's role in the suspicious death of the project's outspoken critic. There is Todd, the black sheep of the family who wants to prove himself, Keith, the oldest who believes it is his natural right and the youngest, Luke, who is driven by the death of the only woman he has ever loved. The one who wins will be the most ruthless. The victor faces losing his soul in the fight.

Published by Currency Press 2006 as final part of *The Boyce Trilogy*

The Emperor of Sydney is a self contained play but is also the final instalment of a trilogy (including *The Woman with Dog's Eyes* and *The Marvellous Boy*).

World Premiere Griffin Theatre, Sydney 2006

**Hannie
RAYSON**

Two Brothers

2 Acts / 5M, 3F (1 double)

"The problem with my brother is that he won't give up his principles to get results." Former Liberal Front bench.

This is the story of two brothers who fierce ideological fight rips their family apart, decimates their personal and political reputations and challenges the moral integrity of the nation.

Eggs Benedict is the Minister for Home Security. His first responsibility is to keep boat people from the Middle East out of Australia. His brother Tom is a left-wing community activist. He represents one of the Iraqi survivors of a boat that sank in the Indian Ocean where 353 asylum-seekers drowned.

Part political thriller, part family drama, Hannie Rayson asks searing questions about a political culture where the unthinkable becomes a routine 'operational matter'. A culture in which some people would rather let refugees down at sea than face questions about the meaning of global citizenship. Surely there is some bedrock of honour that imposes moral responsibilities on governments? After all – this is Australia. Nobody's that bad!

Published by Currency Press 2005

World Premiere Melbourne Theatre Company 2005, transferred to Sydney Theatre Company and toured regionally.

Inheritance

2 Acts / 6F, 6M

In the Mallee country in rural Victoria, the Hamilton and Delaney families gather to celebrate twin sisters Dibs and Girlie's eightieth birthday. But these have been heartbreak years in the bush and the cracks are beginning to show – between parents and their children and between siblings, between those who have been loyal to the land and those who have left it, between farmers and townies, between country folk and their city cousins. And in the background is always the question: Who gets the farm?

Published by Currency Press 2003

Winner of 2004 Helpmann Awards for Best Play and Best New Australian Work

Mary

1 Act / 5F / Can be played with 4F

Mary is a play about being Greek and growing up in Melbourne. It juxtaposes a Greek-Australian family with an Anglo-Australian one, focussing on the relationships between mothers and their teenage daughters. The play explores the conflicts and the comedy of cultural difference, both within families and between them. It is also about the quest for identity as women, daughters and mothers.

Published by Yackandandah 1983

Wall Street Creche

1 Act, 1M, 1F and a baby / 10 mins

Room To Move

2 Acts / 3M, 3F

A comedy about the impact of feminism at a time when it has become a permanent third partner in our relationships, particularly the repercussions for a family when a 30 year-old "new man" moves in with their 62 year old mother.

Published by Yackandandah 1985

Co-winner 1986 Australian Writers' Guild Award FOR Best Original Stage Play

Hotel Sorrento

2 Acts / 4M, 4F

Hilary lives in seaside Sorrento with her father and sixteen year old son; Pippa is visiting from New York and Meg returns from England with her English husband. Three sisters, reunited after ten years in different worlds, again feel the constraints of family life. It is Meg's semi-autobiographical novel, recently short-listed for the Booker prize, which overshadows their homecoming.

It is about expatriatism, our perception of home and the tensions that exist between those who've left and those who've stayed behind. It is about the responsibilities of family obligations and national ties, the rights to individuality within a clan and a country.

Published by Currency Press 1990

Premiered Playbox Theatre Company 1990

Winner 1990 Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Play

Winner 1991 NSW Premier's Literary Award for Best Play

Winner 1990 Green Room Award for Best Play

Falling From Grace

2 Acts / 5F, 2M

A play with a bright comic surface and mysterious depths. It is about women in medicine, in the media and in the office - power and authority in female hands. It is also about public morality and a struggle between women to see who should be its guardian. These women are best friends in a professional world. They are witty and erudite, passionate in pursuit of success and relentless in their pursuit of passion. They juggle careers, children and lovers. They are forty and their friendship is about to be tested.

Published by Currency Press 1994

Premiered Playbox Theatre 1994

Joint Winner 1994 NSW Premier's Literary Award for Best Play

Competitive Tenderness

2 Acts / 5M, 7F

An hilarious contemporary farce. In the competitive, fast lane of Australian politics, the City of Greater Burke is in the frontline of local government reform. Striving to become a model of leaner and meaner bureaucracy, the city is rationalising at an irrational speed. Driving the push for competition is the fearless Dawn Snow, Chief Executive officer; an emissary from the world of private enterprise. A volatile office environment, a gunpowder of ethnic mix, dangerous dogs on the loose and a Traffic Department overtaken by neo nazis ... this is a play which creates pure laughter from its inspired havoc. Hannie Rayson shows us the personal and the political for what they really are - dangerously funny bedfellows.
Published by Currency Press 1996

Premiered at the Playbox Theatre in November 1996.

Scenes From a Separation (Co-Written with Andrew Bovell)

2 Acts / 3M, 4F

There are two sides to every separation. Two truths.
A fascination collaboration between two of Australia's most exciting writers. A story which will resonate with anyone who has ever loved and lost. Mathew and Nina have been married for twelve years. He is forty; a successful publisher. Always in control, his pace is enormous and his path is littered with the discarded souls of those who tried to keep up. Nina's thirty-eight; a journalist. she hasn't worked since the birth of the children. She's restless; looking for something. So when Mathew suggests she takes on the biography of Lawrence Clifford, tycoon, philanthropist and now Australian of the Year, she throws herself into the project with an all-consuming enthusiasm. A play about love and betrayal, about sex, sacrifice and survival, of break-up and break-down.
Published by Currency Press 1995 (Revised script for Sydney Theatre Company production 2004)

Life After George

2 Acts / 2M, 4F

"We are the people of the sixties. We are the players in a great revolution, forged not by men at war, but by men in love." Peter George

This is the story of three women, three marriages and one husband. After the charismatic radical, Professor Peter George, crashes a light plane on an island in Bass Strait, his death brings his three wives together. From Paris and Marxism in 1968, through feminism into cyberspace, George married the 'it' girl of the successive generations. In the three marriages we see the progress of Australia's intellectual and political life from the idealistic sixties to the pragmatic nineties. From the barricades to the world wide web. This is a play about the radical baby boomers who defected to the other side, and those who have tried to keep the faith. It is also about the revenge of the supposedly apathetic and cynical Generation Xers. Are we witnessing the death of idealism? Or is irony the only strategy for the new millenium?
Published by Currency Press 2000

World Premiere Melbourne Theatre Company, transferred to Sydney Theatre Company and toured nationally Overseas productions include Duchess Theatre, London Centaur Theatre Company, Quebec, The English Theatre, Frankfurt Germany, Vienna English Theatre, Vienna and Slovenian National theatre, Slovenia.

Winner 2001 Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best New Play

Winner 2001 Victorian Premier's Literary Award

Winner of five 2001 Green Room Awards including Best New Australian Play

**Toby
SCHMITZ**

Capture the flag
1 Act / 3M, 1F

Berlin, May 4th 1945. Three Hitler Youth boys hide deep in a drain beneath the city. Above them the devastation and horror of war has dwindled to random bursts of resistance and the dreaded terror of occupation. Only weeks ago it was all a game, but now time is up for these young lives, whose remaining options are almost unfathomable. They promised it wouldn't come to this. When children are trained in the terrible art of nationalism how grown up can they get? How blind can they be? And how quickly can they turn?

Cünt Pl

2 Acts / 2M, 2F

An actress with an absent boyfriend, a teenager doing his thesis on pornography, an au pair with a night to spare and a famous thinker with sex on the brain meet randomly in the bosom of a paradox: a cool bar in Canberra. Two conversations straddle each other and four strangers tag-team against an age-old conundrum: If you had one night with a sexy stranger and like, nobody could ever find out, hypothetically even, would you, you know, fuck them?

Fifteen and Then Some

1 Act / 1M, 1F

Now that she's a year out of school and the world sucks like she predicted, Leeza Lockseed is ready to get something off her chest, and the *Daily Mail* is willing to pay.

Bobby Bannister, staving off depression in pop purgatory is chuffed by the mere fact that *Rolling Stone* is willing to listen.

Both pick their way through the strange, sexy world of obsession and top-ten stardom back to the hotel room and the night that changed their lives.

Lucky

Acts /

This play follows the travels of a partial savant over twenty four hours as he scours Sydney attempting to raise twelve thousand dollars before low-level criminals twist his head off and dump his body at sea.

Lucky's particular autism concerns numbers. He claims, though we are never sure how truthfully until the end, that by calculating enough sums in his head simultaneously, he can predict the future: he knows how late the train will be, which person will walk around the corner next, and he can tell, just by looking at you, how you will die. By laying his eyes on his true love Lucky is forced into the real world. Pin-balling through the city in one night Lucky meets many characters, some seemingly archetypal, all of them at various stages on the road of love.

Lucky's eventual victory is entirely personal, a triumph over the fears that can keep us second-guessing and stalling all our lives.

Winner of the 2002 Patrick White Award

**Alan
SEYMOUR**

The One Day Of The Year

3 Acts / 3M, 2F

One of Australia's best known plays - April 25, Anzac Day is taken as the national focal point from which radiates perennial conflicts of father and son, comradeship and individualisation.

Published by Penguin 1985

Revived by Sydney Theatre Company in 2004

**Jim
SHARMAN**

Shadow & Splendour

2 Acts / 9M, 6F

Fictional drama derived from historical fact. Inspired by characters and events surrounding an international espionage ring that operated out of Tokyo from 1937 to 1941.

**Katherine
THOMSON**

Mavis Goes To Timor (Co-Written with Angela Chaplin & Kavisha Mazzella)

1 Act / 1F

In 1999 as we watched the devastation of East Timor, a woman in Yarrowonga remembered the debt Australia owed Timor from World War II, the outrage of the 1975 invasion, the murder of the "Balibao 5" and the injustices that have been perpetrated against the Timorese for decades. One woman's journey of a life time for a people whose journey to freedom has finally finished. Experience of the warmth, tears and excitement of Mavis' story and the story of the women of East Timor.
Published by Currency Press 2002

Winner 2003 Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Stage Play

Kayak

1 Act / 1M, 2F

A moral thriller that begins on Sydney Harbour when a sole woman kayaker, in search of isolation from human contact, is pelted with doughnuts by a boy in a passing 'tinnie'. The woman seeks revenge, the boy's guardian becomes involved, and the tables are turned again and again as all three characters struggle for the moral high ground. A fast-moving thriller with strong comic undertow.

Commissioned by Griffin Theatre for their 2002 Borderline season of one-act plays

This Hospital Is My Country

1 Act / 2F plus one musician

This moving play examines the life of Elena, a refugee from the Greek civil war who has dedicated her life to working in a children's hospital. Now, with the threat of privatization, she may be asked to go and the memories come flooding back. As Elena locks herself in her beloved laundry, she finds a young girl taking refuge. A young girl who is, like Elena, afraid to face her future.

Commissioned by Deckchair Theatre Company

Fragments of Hong Kong

1 Act / 6F

A school girl wanders the neighbourhood planning her suicide, watched by an ambitious young woman being fitted out not only for her wedding dress, but also for her political role. Mrs Ma folds letters on behalf of Chinese dissidents, while a Filipina maid worries that the family is planning to emigrate, but if they are, why is she being sent to buy a car space? It's been raining for a week and the embankment is seeping. Fragments is the story of these women interwoven around an inquest at which all but one must testify.

Navigating

2 Acts / 3M, 4F

'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing', observed Edmund Burke. The courage of ordinary people in the face of economic upheaval or public corruption is at the heart of Katherine Thomson's writing. In Navigating we meet Bea, an embattled woman who finds herself in possession of damaging documentary evidence. The seaside town in which her and her sister live is riddled with corruption and buried secrets, as the forces once responsible for a holiday tragedy now conspire to win the contract for a private prison. Unwilling to recognise the fear and deceit around her, Bea confides in one hollow friend after another. Her small world crumbles. Silence, she discovers, is as damaging as speech. A dense, powerful, witty human drama which goes to the heart of small-town politics and finds sources of unexpected wisdom.

Published by Currency Press 1997

Premiered at Melbourne Theatre Company and Queensland Theatre Company in 1997, Sydney Theatre Company 1998

Board of Studies NSW, Higher School Certificate, English Syllabus (01-03)

A Sporting Chance

1 Act/ 2M, 2F

A play for young people, the action takes place in the course of an under 15's AFL game. Michelle is worried that her footy days are over and Ferret, playing opposite her, wants more than anything to please his father who has finally come to watch him play. Nancy hates her breasts, falls down a crumbling cliff, and spends the entire game-time climbing to safety, while Terry can only watch the footie from the sidelines dreaming of the day that they "pick me!" Highly physical.

Diving For Pearls

2 Acts / 2M, 3F

A glossy resort grows in place of the old community of steel-workers and two ordinary people make some incongruous attempts to adjust to the new world. Barbara, doggedly optimistic; Den, painfully resentful, together assault the unfamiliar heartlessness with stubborn humour and outbursts of emotional power.

Published by Oceania Press, Japan and Currency Press 1991

Premiered Melbourne Theatre Company 1991

Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, Higher School Certificate, English Curriculum 1998 – 2001

Board of Studies NSW, Higher School Certificate, English Syllabus 1995-2000

Winner 1991 Louis Esson Prize for Drama

Winner 1991 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for best new play

Barmaids

2 Acts / 2F

BARMAIDS tells the story of Nancy and Val who know how to run a pub. But when the Arms is bought by a syndicate, accountants start hatching new schemes. A play full of colourful stories and worrying rumours evoking the loyalty between barmaid and drinker.

Published by Currency Press 1991

Winner 1992 Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Community /Theatre-In-Education play.

Wonderlands

2 Acts / 3M, 3F

The Yirralong people have lodged a native title claim for the right to "possess, occupy and enjoy their ancestral lands". Lon, a third generation pastoralist is terrified that his dream of passing the family property on to his son-in-law will be shattered. As the pressure mounts, long buried secrets begin to unravel. This is a play about white belonging, black belonging. It's about the dust storm of forgetfulness and about finding new ways to move forward. It's about the struggle to find the balance of a shared history – personal and political – and that binding, that connection, that sets our hearts free.

Published by Currency Press 2003

Winner 2004 Rodney Seaborn Award

Harbour

2 Acts / 6M, 4F

On the Wednesday before Easter, 1998, a few hundred metres away from the site of the new Sydney Theatre, one of the most dramatic events in recent Australian history took place. It was the culmination of a tightly planned scheme between the Federal Government and a stevedoring company. An attempt to smash the Maritime Union of Australia -- the wharfies. This play is set against the backdrop of this explosive industrial dispute. Sandy - a retired wharfie - comes home after a six year absence to find his family divided. His kids have moved on -- and up. They're on opposite sides of the political divide. His wife doesn't want to be in the same room as him. The world has changed, and it seems he no longer has a place in it. But he's a battler, with a burning desire to unite his family and set the past to rights. A past full of explosive secrets that threaten to blow them apart forever.

Commissioned by Sydney Theatre Company to open the new Sydney Theatre, January 2005. Published by Currency Press 2004.

Winner of 2005 NSW Premier's Literary Award for Best New Play and shortlisted for the 2005 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize in the United States.

'.. a robust and wondrous play, and a fitting Australian drama to open the magnificent Sydney theatre at Walsh Bay. The opening of the STC's playhouse was a historic occasion made all the more memorable and meaningful with the premier of such a rewardingly humorous and humane Australian play. Bryce Hallett, Sydney Morning Herald

Darlinghurst Nights

2 Acts / 3F, 4M

A musical play set during a day and hot night, in Darlinghurst and King's Cross in the late 1920's. A poet, Ken, sits in his Elizabeth Bay 'eyrie' wanting to conjur up the old King's Cross. From the harbour lights comes his cartoonist friend Joe, long dead but as wild and anarchic as ever, and Joe takes Ken back to their time together as young men. Back to the Gunmen's Girl, the Iceman, the Woman in the Green Roll's Royce and all their interweaving stories in which Ken and Joe were involved.

****Please note that rights for poetry must be acquired for each season of the show as well****

King Tide

2 Acts / 3F, 2 M

Sal was once an award-winning investigative journalist and author, uncovering government corruption and public scandals. Two years ago, her son's death robbed her of a willingness to engage and her ability to question. Now, as she comes to terms with her loss, her teenage daughter Beck brings home Taki, a Japanese surfer, to stay with them. Sal is unsettled by his reclusive behaviour and unexplained past.

When her calculating brother Jack visits with his new, younger girlfriend, Sal is awakened to a sense of danger she has long forgotten.

King Tide was commissioned by HoriPro Inc., Japan.