

Act1 Theatre

Presents

Tom Wright's Adaptation of



Directed By Michelle Whitmore.

By Arrangement with ORiGiN Theatrical

*Committing to
memory*

Perfectly Useless Moments

*Nightmares Belong
in the Past*

SYNOPSIS

Valentine's Day, 1900. Behind the respectable walls of Appleyard College lies a world of control, fear and repression. At its centre is the formidable Mrs Appleyard, whose treatment of Sara reveals the darker side of her authority.

Then the girls leave for a picnic at Hanging Rock. Three disappear, one returns. As the mystery deepens, the carefully controlled world of Appleyard College begins to unravel.

Through five performers, Tom Wright's theatrical adaptation explores memory, power, silence and the secrets that lie beneath the surface.

What happened at Hanging Rock? And what else has been hidden?

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When taking on *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, I knew I was stepping into a legendary piece of Australian storytelling. What drew me to Tom Wright's brilliant theatrical adaptation, and made me so passionate about bringing it to life is how it breathes entirely new, haunting vitality into a narrative many think they already know.

This marks my second time stepping into the director's chair, and I have been blessed beyond measure with an extraordinary cast. These wonderful actors have been an absolute privilege to work with—generous, dedicated, and incredibly open to direction. While I hope I've managed to teach them a thing or two along the way, the truth is they have inspired me every single day. Theatre is always a collaborative labor of love, and this production would not exist without a few extraordinary people:

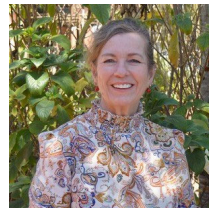
- **Deb Hossack**, my trusted go-to and constant support. Deb has been right beside me at every single rehearsal, collaborating on the finer direction points and providing a creative sounding board as we bounced ideas off one another. Beyond that, she has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to pull our entire cast and crew together.
- **Andrew Munslow**, our computer whiz, whose patience helped bring my visual vision to life by seamlessly integrating the projected images into our set.
- **Mark Whitmore**, my wonderful husband, whose unconditional support keeps me grounded, and whose hard work sourcing our sound and lighting has built the atmospheric backbone of this production.

With a minimalist set designed to let the story and performances shine, my hope is that you allow yourselves to fully immerse in the atmosphere and bring your own interpretation to the mystery of Hanging Rock. Most of all, I hope we take you on a powerful journey and that you witness something you'll continue talking about, in the best possible way, for weeks to come.

Thank you for supporting live, local community theater.

Enjoy the show!

Michelle Whitmore.



The Real World

*Hanging Rock Dark.
Glittering Beauty.
Rose Between Them*

**Chasing
Shadows**

**Missing
Presumed
Dead**

**Unknown
to
Themselves**

*All That is Solid
Melts Into Air*

**SILENCE
IS
GOLDEN**

DÉSHABILÉE

**It Comes Back At
Night**

**Nobody Has
Anything in
Mind**

**Unseen, Unrecorded,
The Pattern of The Picnic
Continues to Darken
And Spread**

The Cast.



Cheney Hossack (Elizabeth) is a Meanjin based performer and writer. Her most recent performances include Long Gone Lonesome Cowgirls with Ad Astra Theatre and The Virgin-Mobile with Passion Productions. She has appeared in a wide variety of productions ranging from Shakespeare to brand new plays and musicals and is now excited to delve into the much Beloved gothic world of Picnic at Hanging Rock. Cheney is so grateful to be part of this production and to be sharing the stage with so many talented women.



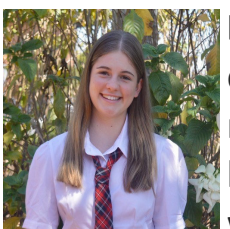
Briony McCullough (Arielle) Hi, I play Arielle in Picnic at Hanging Rock. My love for performing arts started from a young age, doing ballet for 10 years, alongside piano, viola, singing and other dance modalities. I performed in theatre all through high school - this is my first creative endeavour since graduating! I'm so excited to be a part of bringing this epic mystery to life and hope the audience feels they've been taken on the journey right along with us.



Rebekah Nicholls (Nikki) is delighted to work with the cast and crew in this production of Picnic at Hanging Rock. Rebekah is a fully grown theatre kid whose favourite past performances include 'Alice in Wonderland', 'Seussical', and 'Mamma Mia'. She is currently studying biomedical science, but procrastinates by starting random craft projects, climbing mountains, and blasting show tunes.



Renee Thomas (Harriet) is delighted to return to Act 1 Theatre for her second production, playing Harriet in Picnic at Hanging Rock. Growing up in North Queensland, her love of theatre continues. She has relished the challenge of Harriet morphing into characters throughout this haunting iconic Australian story. Renee is grateful to be part of the wonderful Act 1 Theatre community and this talented cast.



Liliana Zele (Amber) This is my community theatre debut, and I'm so excited to finally share with you all how hard we have worked! I'm still new to theatre, having only done acting classes, but I feel like I've already learnt and improved so much as an actor. It has been a lot of fun working with this group and exploring all of our different roles, so I really do hope you all enjoy the show as much as we have.

Production & Stage Manager: Deb Hossack.

**Sound, Lighting & Visuals: Mark Whitmore &
Andrew Munslow.**

Back Stage Crew: Talon Chorlton, Alan Chorlton & Telhea Fuller

Dressers: Adele Fisk, Trisha Bromley, Michelle Whitmore & Liz Charlwood

Prompts: Jo Barry & John Scandurra

SPECIAL THANKS *TO THE FOLLOWING....*

**OUR FRONT OF HOUSE CREWS FOR THEIR EFFORTS ON THE FRONT LINE.*

**LINDSEY HARDIMAN FOR THE ORIGINAL HANGING ROCK PHOTOGRAPHY*

Our Next Production, November 13th to the 29th (9 Shows)

Veteran TV talk-show host Patrick Sumner is desperate to impress his new producer Reg Godfrey, who visits Patrick's smart London flat for drinks.

But Patrick reckons without the intervention of Jenny, a pretty girl who arrives on the same evening as Reg, intent upon infiltrating Patrick's private life and even passing herself off as his wife.

When Patrick's real wife returns unexpectedly from a Paris trip, Patrick is forced into a spiralling series of lies and subterfuge.

