

*jBah* | JAVENBAH  
THEATRE



# PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

From the novel by

*Joan Lindsay*

Adapted by

*Tom Wright*

*AUDITION  
PACK*

*An Amateur Production By Arrangement with  
ORIGIN Theatrical, on behalf of Nick Hern Books*

## ***ABOUT THE PLAY***

For a group of Australian schoolgirls, a Valentine's Day excursion ends in a horrific disappearance. What happened to the three seniors and their mathematics teacher on top of the formidable peaks of Hanging Rock? Based on the Joan Lindsay runaway bestseller, this contemporary adaptation of the classic explores the myth of the rock told from the schoolgirls of today. What happened on that fateful day? Who is responsible?

## ***ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT***

Tom Wright is an Australian theatre writer, mostly known for his adaptations and translations. He was born and educated in Melbourne. He was a member of Barrie Kosky's Gilgul Theatre in the 1990s and was Associate Director of Sydney Theatre Company. 2004–2012.



His plays and adaptations include: *The Real & Imagined History of the Elephant Man*, *A Journal of the Plague Year*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Ubu*, *This Is a True Story*, *Lorilei*, *Babes in the Wood*, *Tense Dave*, *The Odyssey*, *The Lost Echo*, *Criminology* (with Lally Katz), *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, *The Women of Troy*, *The War of the Roses*, *The Duel*, *Baal*, *Optimism*, *Oresteia*, *On the Misconception of Oedipus*, *The Histrionic* and *Black Diggers*.

## ***CREATIVE TEAM***

**Director** — Hunter Wall

**Stage Manager** — Stephanie Starre

## ***SCHEDULE***

**Performance Season:** School Preview Performances - 10th and 11th of June  
Normal Performance Season - 15th - 29th of June

*A draft rehearsal schedule is viewable at the bottom of this audition pack.*

## ***AUDITIONS***

**Audition Date: Saturday 9th of March 2024 from 10am**

Location: Javeenbah Theatre - *Cnr of Stevens St & Ferry St, Nerang*

You must fill out the registration form in order to attend the auditions. This form is available on the Javeenbah website at <https://javeenbah.org.au/auditions/>. Please fill out the registration form by **Friday 8th of March, by 2pm**.

There will be **both a group call and individual audition slots** on the day.

The group call will be from 10am onwards and the individual auditions will be later in the day. Individual time slots will be provided to you by email once you have completed the registration form. For the group call, **please wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle** as we will be doing activities such as ensemble work, movement exercises and workshopping of scenes. **For the individual auditions, you will be required to prepare one of the monologues from the selected audition material which is provided below.** Please choose a monologue that best showcases your acting abilities and pay close attention to the use of language in each. Use of an Australian accent is preferable. You may be asked to cold read scenes in your individual auditions.

## PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK AUDITION MONOLOGUES

### OPTION 1

AMBER

Australia is a thin layer of scum  
Floating on a vast volcanic lake.  
It is true that for the last few blinks of an eye  
this crust has held sure  
The boiling magma below is forgotten  
Or ignored  
A truth we pretend we do not know  
But quietude is highly unusual in this country  
The normal state of affairs is emanations,  
eruptions,  
Puncturing the veneer, spreading ash, pumice,  
and rock in liquid form.  
In a geological sense, we sleep on a sea  
of flame  
And all through our land, there are portals.  
Gateways to eternal fire.  
The doors of Hell.  
This is Australia.

OPTION 2

ELIZABETH      This land is for the dead  
More theirs than ours –  
Stones slide under her feet  
With every step  
Higher  
Harder  
Heart pounding  
Here a precipice  
A spider large black  
Sprawled on a stone  
Always afraid of spiders  
Recoils  
There  
Inside the rock  
She sees Sara  
One eye  
Staring  
A mask of rotting flesh  
The old woman's hat falls off  
And she sprints  
To the edge  
To the vast darkness  
Sprints  
Into the abyss  
As we all should

OPTION 3

AMBER

I am alone on Hanging Rock  
I can slit the basalt  
As a hot knife in butter.  
There are small jewels sparkling in ancient  
stone.  
The wind blows among pipes that penetrate  
deep into the dark belly of this earth  
Darkness has been sorted all day  
Hanging Rock pressing  
Against the empty sky  
Empty of stars  
I think I have moved  
Strange, cannot tell which is up  
And which is the bedrock.  
The air moves through everything,  
And time, it is either still  
Or it is so turbulent that past, present, future,  
They are all disorder  
And I am as much here with you now in your  
complacent world  
As I am in some antediluvian time  
When this stone was all liquid  
And stars were yet to be born.

OPTION 4

ELIZABETH      A school is a world  
Of course.  
It is a universe  
And the forces that compel space  
And time  
Are here  
In these classrooms  
In the minds of these girls.  
May I speak frankly?  
I do not know  
What is inside them  
These creatures  
And I do not know what is inside you  
Yes I am speaking of you  
I do not understand you  
Something happened to us  
Our people  
Our folk  
When we came here  
We could not hear and did not understand  
The things that already had names  
But we named things that had not been named  
Many things  
That had no name

## ***CAST***

The cast in this particular adaption of 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' consists of five female-presenting actors who tell the story through multiple roles. This provides a great challenge for an ensemble of strong and dynamic actors who will have to represent several different characterisations often in the same scene.

All ages are welcome to apply, however, the playing age for all cast members will be between 16-25.

Please note that due to the content of this play we will only be accepting auditionees that are 16 years or older.

*In the spirit of diversity and inclusion,  
actors of all identities and backgrounds  
are encouraged to audition.*

## ***CONTENT WARNINGS***

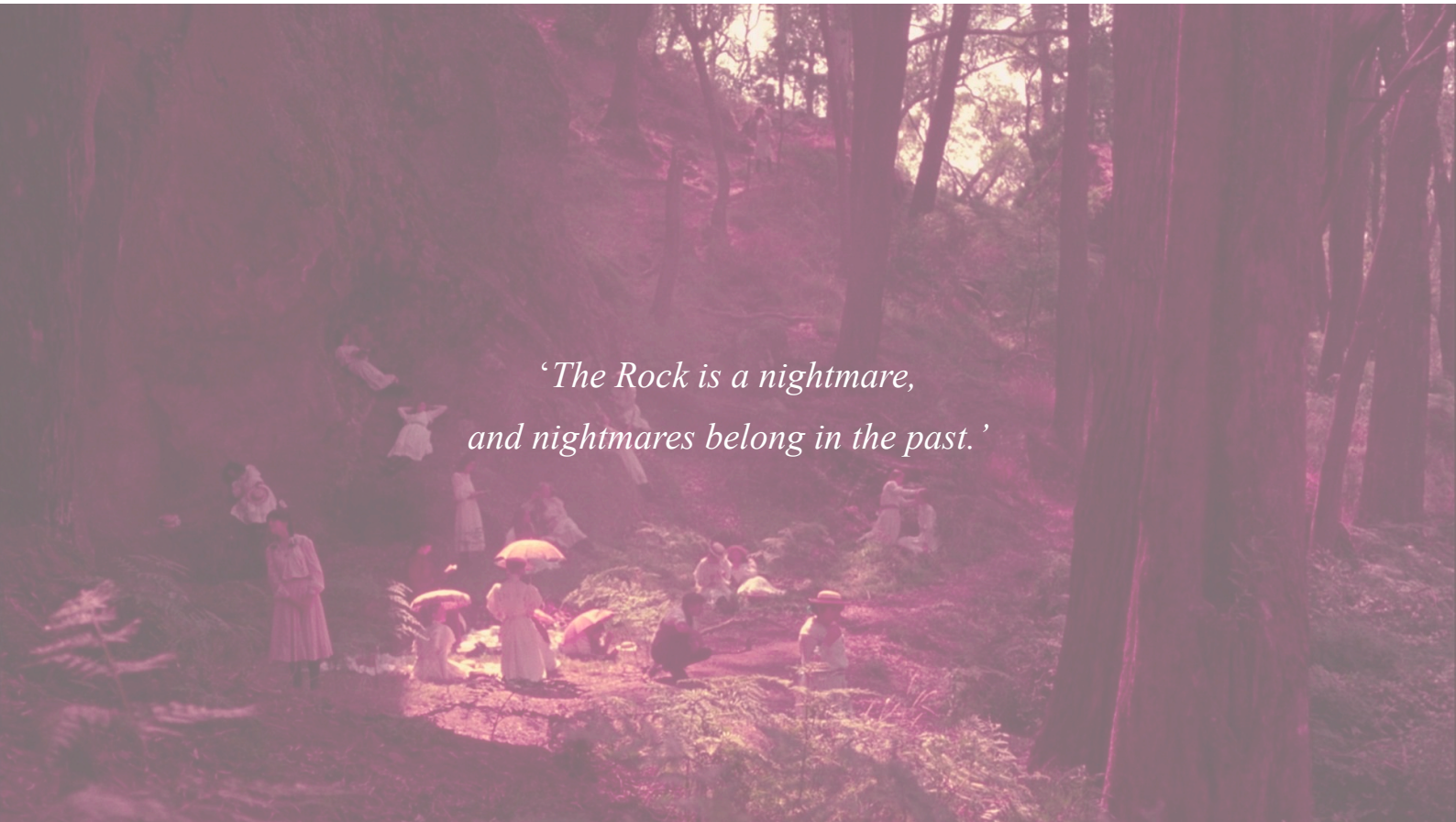
This production involves mature themes of child abuse, horror and suicide - and will also include loud pressure sound effects and intense/strobe lighting. If these content warnings are of any concern, please email us and we will be happy to provide more information regarding these warnings and their prevalence within the production.



*Picnic at Hanging Rock* is a prolific work in the Australian Literature canon that is culturally relevant to all audiences, and this adaptation provides exposure to a visceral, contemporary form of an indomitable classic.

Theatre - at its core - should make you challenge, feel and remember.

The story of Hanging Rock has left the realm of fiction and has entered into historical fact; be part of retelling and remembering the formidable myth that has been engrained in Australia's conscious mind for decades.



*'The Rock is a nightmare,  
and nightmares belong in the past.'*

# PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

## DRAFT SCHEDULE - 6/2/24

DATE	TIME	CALL	SPACE	WHAT
Sat 16/3	6:00PM – LATE	ALL CAST	TBC	Cast and Creatives Meet & Greet/Read Through
Mon 18/3	7:00PM – 10:00PM	ALL CAST	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Conversation/Conventions/Characterisation - Workshop
Wed 20/3	7:00PM – 10:00PM	ALL CAST	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Scene 1 Blocking - Part 1
Sat 23/3	7:00PM – 10:00PM	ALL CAST	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Scene 1 Blocking - Part 2
Mon 25/3	7:00PM – 10:00PM	Nikki, Amber, Harriet, Elizabeth	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Scene 3 Blocking
Wed 27/3	7:00PM – 10:00PM	Nikki, Arielle, Harriet	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Scene 4 Blocking
Sat 30/3	–	–	–	<i>EASTER OFF</i>
Mon 1/4	7:00PM – 8:00PM 8:00PM – 10:00PM	Elizabeth, Nikki + ALL	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Scene 11 Blocking
Wed 3/4	7:00PM – 10:00PM	Elizabeth	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Elizabeth - Monologue Work
Sat 6/4	10:00AM – 12:00PM 1:00PM – 4:00PM	ALL CAST	SOPHIE'S SPACE	SCENE 1 Recap SCENE 14 Blocking
Mon 8/4	7:00PM – 10:00PM	Arielle, Harriet, Nikki	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Monologue Work
Wed 10/4	7:00PM – 8:00PM 8:00PM – 10:00PM	Elizabeth, Arielle, + Harriet	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Scene 2 Blocking Scene 5 Blocking
Sat 13/4	7:00PM – 10:00PM	Amber	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Amber - Monologue Work
Mon 15/4	7:00PM – 10:00PM	ALL CAST	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Scene 6 Blocking
Wed 17/4	7:00PM – 8:00PM 8:00PM – 10:00PM	Harriet, Arielle, Elizabeth, + Nikki	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Scene 7 Blocking
Sat 20/4	10:00AM – 4:00PM	ALL CAST	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Blocking Recap
Mon 22/4	9:00AM – 3:00PM	ALL CAST	THEATRE	BUMP IN
Mon 22/4	7:00PM – 10:00PM	Amber, Harriet, Arielle	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Scene 8 and Scene 13 Blocking

DATE	TIME	CALL	SPACE	WHAT
Wed 24/4	7:00PM — 10:00PM	Elizabeth, Arielle	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Scene 9 and Scene 12 Blocking
Sat 27/4	10:00AM — 11:00AM 11:00AM — 1:00PM 2:00PM — 6:00PM	Amber, Nikki ALL CAST	SOPHIE'S SPACE	Scene 10 Blocking Blocking Finish Blocking Recap
Mon 29/4	7:00PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST	THEATRE	Stumble Through First Half of Show + Polish
Wed 1/5	7:00PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST	THEATRE	Stumble Through Second Half of Show + Polish
Sat 4/5	10:00AM — 12:00PM 1:00PM — 4:00PM	ALL CAST	THEATRE	Stumble Through Run Full Blocking Polish
Mon 6/5	7:00PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST	THEATRE	Costume Parade
Wed 8/5	7:00PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST	THEATRE	Run Start/Stop + Fixes — <b>OFF BOOK</b>
Sat 11/5	9:00AM — 2:00PM	LX ONLY	THEATRE	LX Plot
Mon 13/5	7:00PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST	THEATRE	Tech Step Through - Sound
Wed 15/5	7:00PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST	THEATRE	Tech Step Through - Lighting
Sat 18/5	10:00AM — 12:00PM 1:00PM — 3:00PM	ALL CAST + CREW	THEATRE	Tech Run - Start/Stop Full Dress Stumble Run
Mon 20/5	6:30PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST	THEATRE	Final Fix Ups + Polish
Wed 22/5	6:30PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST + CREW	THEATRE	Full Dress Run
Sat 25/5	10:00AM — 12:00PM 12:30PM — 3:00PM	ALL CAST + CREW	THEATRE	Dress Run Full Dress Run + Production Shots and Headshots
Mon 27/5	6:00PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST + CREW	THEATRE	Full Dress Run
Wed 29/5	6:00PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST + CREW	THEATRE	Full Dress Run
Sat 1/6	10:00AM — 2:00PM	ALL CAST + CREW	THEATRE	Full Dress Run
Mon 3/6	6:30PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST + CREW	THEATRE	TBC Rehearsal
Wed 5/6	6:00PM — 10:00PM	ALL CAST + CREW	THEATRE	Full Show Run
Sat 8/6	10:00AM — 2:00PM	ALL CAST + CREW	THEATRE	Full Show Run
Mon 10/6	6:00PM — 10:00PM	FULL COMPANY	THEATRE	School Performance + Cast Q&A
Wed 12/6	6:00PM — 10:00PM	FULL COMPANY	THEATRE	Final Show Run
Sat 15/6	6:00PM — 10:00PM	FULL COMPANY	THEATRE	OPENING NIGHT
Sun 16/6	12:30PM — 4:00PM	FULL COMPANY	THEATRE	SHOW #2 - Matinee Performance
Fri 21/6	6:00PM — 10:00PM	FULL COMPANY	THEATRE	SHOW #3
Sat 22/6	6:00PM — 10:00PM	FULL COMPANY	THEATRE	SHOW #4
Sun 23/6	12:30PM — 4:00PM	FULL COMPANY	THEATRE	SHOW #5 - Matinee Performance
Fri 28/6	6:00PM — 10:00PM	FULL COMPANY	THEATRE	SHOW #6
Sat 29/6	6:00PM — 10:00PM	FULL COMPANY	THEATRE	CLOSING NIGHT
Sun 30/6	9:00AM — 3:00PM	FULL COMPANY	THEATRE	BUMP OUT + Cast Picnic