

# Prescribed recorded live performance list

Drama external assessment 2024

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## Background

This resource provides the prescribed recorded live performance list for 2024 for the *Drama General Senior Syllabus 2019 v1.1*.

The list enables schools to make valid production selections to support students in preparing for Drama external assessment in 2024.

## Preparing for external assessment

For Drama external assessment in 2024, schools must use the QCAA-specified production of *Black Diggers* and/or *Dust Pilgrim*. Details are outlined on pages 2–4.

**Note:** *Dust Pilgrim* will also be included in the prescribed list for 2025.

Annotations, including a synopsis of the production and advice to schools, are provided to help schools select the recorded live performance/s appropriate to their contexts and cohorts.

Teachers should view the selected recorded live performance before studying it in class, to ensure they understand the content and can contextualise it for students.

Teachers should then provide opportunities for students to:

- engage with, and develop a thorough understanding of, the selected recorded live performance
- prepare to respond to an extended response question of their choice in the external assessment, which will contain an unseen visual or text-based stimulus related to the selected question.

**Note:** Students will not view the recorded live performance during the examination.

## Criteria for recorded live performances

The recorded live performances on this list:

- meet syllabus requirements
- reflect the cultural and social diversity of the Australian context and student cohorts, including Aboriginal perspectives and Torres Strait Islander perspectives
- cater for all school contexts, including consideration of content
- reflect a breadth of practice and perspectives/viewpoints
- provide appropriate challenge and scope for all students to demonstrate knowledge utilisation cognitions of the syllabus (evaluate, justify, synthesise, argue a position)
- are of a professional standard and professionally recorded
- are accessible and available for purchase at a reasonable cost to schools

- provide scope for a range of readings, i.e. multiplicity of dramatic meaning
- provide reasonable and manageable workloads for students
- meet community standards and expectations
- are appropriate for the age and development of students
- are non-discriminatory and inclusive.

## ***Black Diggers***

by Queensland Theatre and the Sydney Festival

<https://tickets.queenslandtheatre.com.au/black-diggers-usb/3654>

(See also <https://queenslandtheatre.com.au/black-diggers-educational-resource>)

<b>2014 Brisbane season cast:</b>	George Bostock, Luke Carroll, David Page, Hunter Page-Lochard, Guy Simon, Colin Smith, Eliah Watego, Tibian Wyles, Sam Lappin (Bugler)
<b>Writer:</b>	Tom Wright
<b>Director:</b>	Wesley Enoch
<b>Set designer:</b>	Stephen Curtis
<b>Composition and sound designer:</b>	Tony Brumpton
<b>Lighting designer:</b>	Ben Hughes
<b>Costume designer:</b>	Ruby Langton-Batty
<b>Dramaturg:</b>	Louise Gough
<b>Cultural consultant:</b>	George Bostock
<b>Researcher:</b>	David Williams
<b>Acting coach:</b>	Jason Klarwein
<b>Voice and accent coach:</b>	Melissa Agnew
<b>Singing coach:</b>	Megan Shorey
<b>Fight director:</b>	Niki-J Price
<b>Movement consultant:</b>	Nerida Matthaai
<b>2014 premiere (Sydney Festival) cast:</b>	George Bostock, Luke Carroll, David Page, Hunter Page-Lochard, Guy Simon, Colin Smith, Eliah Watego, Tibian Wyles, Meyne Wyatt, Ian Stenning (Bugler)
<b>2015 national tour cast:</b>	George Bostock, Luke Carroll, Kirk Page, Guy Simon, Colin Smith, Eliah Watego, Tibian Wyles, Shaka Cook, Trevor Jamieson

Tom Wright's *Black Diggers* offers audiences a glimpse into Australia's past, unveiling and highlighting the often largely unrecognised contributions of Aboriginal soldiers and Torres Strait Islander soldiers — 'diggers' — during World War I. When war broke out in 1914, patriotic young men all over the world enlisted, including hundreds of Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islander Australians. They faced the horrors of war at a time in Australia's history when First Nations Australians were banned by the government from serving in the military, were segregated, had their children forcibly removed and were denied the right to vote. *Black Diggers* focuses on the forgotten role of these warriors who were often shunned in their own country. It tells of their honour and sacrifice in service and, for those who survived, the pain of their return to oppression.

*Black Diggers* follows the journeys of 100 fictional First Nations Australian soldiers based on an extensive range of real archival accounts. The stories are interwoven throughout the play to

reveal the experiences of these ‘black diggers’, not only on the battlefields of Gallipoli, Palestine and Flanders, but also in the battle experienced back home on ‘friendly turf’ where they faced racist attitudes and behaviours on all fronts.

*Black Diggers* is episodic in nature, presenting a strong political message through storytelling, direct address, song, comedic elements, multiple roleplaying, letter narration and stylised movement.

### **Advice to schools**

Some infrequent low-level coarse language is used. References to and depictions of violence and death, as occurred in war, are evident throughout. Schools need to be particularly aware of and informed about what it was like to be an Aboriginal person and a Torres Strait Islander person in Australia in the early 1900s. Sensitivity towards Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples is required due to the theme of racism, and the depiction of fictional deceased First Nations Australian characters.

## ***Dust Pilgrim***

### **by Red Leap Theatre**

To purchase *Dust Pilgrim* or for more information, email Red Leap Theatre directly at [education@redleaptheatre.co.nz](mailto:education@redleaptheatre.co.nz).

<b>Original cast:</b>	Ella Becroft, Alison Bruce, Thomas Eason
<b>Touring cast:</b>	Amanda Billing, Tama Jarman, Arianna Osborne
<b>Director:</b>	Kate Parker, Julie Nolan
<b>Set designer:</b>	Poppy Serano
<b>Set mentor:</b>	Andrew Foster
<b>Costume designer:</b>	Charlie Baptist
<b>Lighting designer:</b>	Rachel Marlow
<b>Sound composer and designer:</b>	Thomas Press
<b>Image designer/creator:</b>	Rachel Hilliar, Kate Parker
<b>Dramaturgical advisor:</b>	Paolo Rotondo
<b>Development cast:</b>	Rob Mkoraka, Ella Becroft, Thomas Eason

*Dust Pilgrim* is an intimate coming-of-age tale about a young woman’s fight for freedom, which explores ideas of entrapment, empowerment and honesty.

Trapped in a life with dust and shifting sands as the foundation, a young woman named Panuelo is held in the iron grip of her controlling mother. The women live a small existence in a barren land, where it has not rained since Panuelo’s birth and the disappearance of her father. After stumbling upon a long-buried secret, Panuelo makes a courageous attempt at freedom. Escaping to the seemingly boundless desert, she discovers rich and striking landscapes full of barriers and borders, swindlers and angels. Panuelo’s quest causes her to realise that things are never as they appear and question whether she will ever find freedom in her new world.

Red Leap Theatre manipulates movement, mood, tension, symbol, sound, lighting and — most notably — sand to tell the powerful story of *Dust Pilgrim*.

## Advice to schools

This production contains symbolic references to a gun battle and a character who is shot and disappears into a cloud of grey dust. There is reference to a mother's mistreatment of her daughter.

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