

Prescribed recorded live performance list

Drama external assessment 2025

Background

This resource provides the prescribed recorded live performance list for 2025 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 2025.

Preparing for external assessment

For Drama external assessment in 2025, schools must use the QCAA-specified production of *Dust Pilgrim*, *The Wider Earth* and *Paper Sky*. Details are outlined on pages 2–5.

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
- 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.

Dust Pilgrim

by Red Leap Theatre

Dust Pilgrim is available for purchase from Red Leap Theatre's website:

<https://redleaptheatre.co.nz/education/education-resources>.

For more information, email Red Leap Theatre directly at education@redleaptheatre.co.nz.

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

Dust Pilgrim is the story of a young woman's fight for freedom, exploring ideas of entrapment, empowerment and honesty.

Trapped in a life with her controlling mother, Panuelo eventually escapes to the seemingly boundless desert, where she discovers rich and striking landscapes full of challenges, swindlers and angels. Panuelo's quest causes her to realise that things are never as they appear and question whether she will ultimately 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.

The Wider Earth

By Dead Puppet Society

The Wider Earth is available for rental on Digital Stage:

<https://digitalstage.qpac.com.au>.

Short- and long-term rental options are available, with Digital Stage subscriptions coming soon.

For more information, email digitalstage@qpac.com.au. Digital Stage is made possible by QPAC.

Original cast:	Tom Conroy, Anthony Standish, Frances Berry, Jaime Ureta, Barbara Lowing, Liesel Zink, Alex Kaan, Kevin Spink, Morgan Francis (understudy), Robert Coleby (voice over), Billy Fogarty (understudy)
Writer/director/co-designer:	David Morton
Creative producer:	Nicholas Paine
Co-designer:	Aaron Barton
Projection designer:	Justin Harrison
Lighting designer:	Lee Curran
Composers:	Lior, Tony Buchen
Sound designer:	Tony Brumpton
Associate sound designer:	Brady Watkins
Associate lighting designer:	Christine Felmingham
Producers:	Dead Puppet Society, Trish Wadley Productions and Glass Half Full Productions

The Wider Earth presents a sensitive portrayal of the life and theories of scientific visionary Charles Darwin. Capturing Darwin's younger years and adventurous spirit, the production recounts key moments of the legendary voyage of the HMS Beagle, journeying through dramatic and breath-taking South American environments, which are brought to life through puppetry of creatures great and small. The ensemble cast enhances the compelling story, as Darwin experiences conflict with the volatile Captain Fitzroy and friendship with First Lieutenant Wickham, who would become one of Brisbane's most distinguished early residents. This coming-of-age quest highlights Darwin's faith alongside his innovative scientific studies, as well as the internal conflict he experienced in reconciling the two, while seeking answers to questions he asked of the world around him.

The Wider Earth is a powerful example of innovative hybrid theatre.

Advice to schools

This production includes two brief references to suicide; these instances are dealt with sensitively and appropriately for student audiences.

Paper Sky

by Red Leap Theatre

Paper Sky is available for purchase from Red Leap Theatre's website:

<https://redleaptheatre.co.nz/education/education-resources>.

For more information, email Red Leap Theatre directly at education@redleaptheatre.co.nz.

Original devising cast:	Emmett Skilton, Julia Croft, Veronica Brady, Alison Bruce, Justin Haiu
Directors:	Kate Parker, Julie Nolan
Set designer:	John Verryt
Costume designer:	Elizabeth Whiting
Lighting designer:	Jeremy Fern
Sound designer/musical director:	Andrew McMillan
Composers:	Andrew McMillan, Claire Cowan
Imagery designer:	Kate Parker, John Verryt
Imagery construction:	Kate Parker, Rachel Hilliar, Ben Anderson, John Verryt
Touring cast:	Shadon Meredith, Tai Berdinner-Blades, Ella Becroft, Renee Lyons, Matariki Whatarau

Paper Sky is an episodic work commissioned by the Auckland Arts Festival in 2011. It won both Most Original Production and Best Design at the Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards in 2012.

Paper Sky is the story of Henry, a writer who lives alone. His stories, both past and present, are intertwined with the story of his imagined hero, Lumina. The blurring of lines between the realities of Henry's life and the struggles of Lumina in his imaginary paper world serve as a contrast between a literal hero's quest (faced by Lumina in Henry's imagination) and the metaphorical quest faced by Henry in forming a relationship with the woman next door. The production explores the nature of relationships, the process of grief and the importance of change.

Paper Sky uses a number of styles. Henry's imagination is represented in the real world through a trio of actors and a range of characters to express the varied nature of Henry's inner turmoil, playfulness and anxiety.

Advice to schools

This production includes themes of death and grief, and suggests a drowning through the use of a shadow screen. A stage kiss occurs between a male and female character, and a female actor is dressed as a male character.

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