

External assessment 2024

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Question book

# Drama

## General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

## Section 1

### Instructions

- There are two questions for each of the two recorded live performances.
  - Respond to **one** of the questions for your chosen recorded live performance.
  - Respond in 800–1000 words in the response book.
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### Prescribed recorded live performance 1: *Black Diggers*

#### QUESTION 1



Argue a position connecting the concept of recognition expressed in the image with key moments of dramatic action and meaning communicated in *Black Diggers*. Justify your argument by evaluating the manipulation of direct address in relation to the elements of tension and character.

OR

## QUESTION 2

‘But I’ll tell you instead of brave and fine  
When lives of black and white entwine,  
And men in brotherhood combine —  
This would I tell you, son of mine.’

Excerpt from ‘Son of Mine’ (poem) by Oodgeroo Noonuccal.

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Evaluate how effectively key moments of dramatic action and meaning in *Black Diggers* communicate the concept of identity expressed in the poem. Argue a position with reference to the manipulation of the elements of relationship and time in relation to the convention of juxtaposition.

## **Contextual information**

**Production company:** Queensland Theatre and Sydney Festival co-production

**Writer:** Tom Wright

**Director:** Wesley Enoch

**Set design:** Stephen Curtis

**Researcher:** David Williams

**Composition and sound design:** Tony Brumpton

**Dramaturg:** Louise Gough

**Costume design:** Ruby Langton-Batty

**Lighting design:** Ben Hughes

**Cultural consultant:** George Bostock

**Cast:** George Bostock, Luke Carroll, David Page, Hunter Page-Lochard, Guy Simon, Colin Smith, Eliah Watego, Tibian Wyles, Sam Lappin (Bugler)

## **Synopsis of the play**

*Black Diggers* focuses on the forgotten and silenced role of Australian First Nations soldiers who were often shunned in their own country. It details their honour and sacrifice during service and the pain of survivors returning to continued oppression.

## Characters

An ensemble of First Nations male actors switch between multiple roles, ethnicities and genders.

### Character list per episode for the recorded live performance *Black Diggers*

#### ACT ONE

##### 1887: Bellenden Ker, Queensland

Settler  
Boundary Rider  
Stockman  
Taxidermist

##### 1914: Somewhere on the Gwydir

Retired Schoolmaster  
Harry  
One of Harry's Mates

**Song:** *Sons of the Southern Cross*

##### 1914

Harry  
Ern  
Bob  
Norm  
Harry's Mate

##### 1895: Australian Museum, Sydney

Nigel (little boy)  
Taxidermist

##### 1916: Boundary Hotel, Brisbane

Norm  
Bob  
Ern

##### 1915: Petrie Terrace

Recruiting Sergeant  
Ern  
Recruiting Corporal  
Norm  
Bob  
Clerk  
Corporal  
Secretary  
Officer  
Doctor

##### 1915

Voice from an Old Wireless

##### 1915: Queen Street

Ern  
Norm  
Bob

##### 1915: Waiting to cross France

Archie [*writing*]

##### 1915: Dardanelles

Frightened Private  
Moustached Sergeant  
Corporal with Glasses  
Laurie  
Another Soldier

##### 1916: Indian Ocean, ship on the way over

Aggressive Private  
Harry  
White Private  
Another White Private  
Tall Private  
Red-Haired Sergeant

**Song:** *The World's Turned Upside Down*

##### 1917: Passchendaele, No Man's Land foxhole

First White Soldier  
Laurie  
Second White Soldier

##### 1917: Bullecourt, in a dugout

Nigel (grown up)  
Squinting Soldier  
Older Soldier

**Song:** *Sandy Maranoa*

##### 1918: Villers-Bretonneux

Voice in the Dark  
Ern

**1917: Ypres**

Mick  
Soldier  
Another Soldier  
Corporal  
Trinidadian  
Second Trinidadian

**1917: Bullecourt**

Major  
Nigel  
Squinting Soldier  
German Soldier

**1915: Frying Pan Creek, NSW**

Mum  
Bertie  
Grandad

**1917: Polygon Wood**

Second White Soldier  
Stan  
First White Soldier  
Harry

**1917: A trench**

Ern  
Archie  
Mick  
Harry  
Stan

**1916: Pozières**

Bertie  
Tommy  
Stretcher-Bearer

**A Ghost**

Ghost

**1916: Pozières**

Mick  
One Soldier  
Soldier  
Bertie  
Tommy

**Song:** *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

**1917**

Archie *[writing]*

**1917: Beersheba, Palestine**

British Captain  
Laurie

**1917: Zossen POW camp**

German Prison Guard  
Nigel  
Indian (POW)  
Second Indian  
Third Indian

**1917: Abbeville, field hospital**

Bertie *[writing]*  
Medical Orderly

**1918: Abbeville, elsewhere in the field hospital**

Bob  
Ern  
Norm  
Voice

**1917: Zossen**

Professor  
Nigel

**1916**

Tommy  
Second Sapper  
First Sapper

**1918: Near Amiens**

Archie *[writing]*

**1917**

Discharging Officer  
Bertie *[standing to attention]*

**Song:** *Lazarus*

**1917: Messines**

Archie *[fighting hand to hand]*  
Austrian *[fighting hand to hand]*

## ACT TWO

### 1949: Glebe Town Hall

Bloke with a Glass of Wine *[speaking to assembly]*

**Song:** *Tattooed Lady*

### 1919: On a gangway

Mick  
Archie

### Laurie leaving camp, having been demobbed

Laurie  
Laurie's Mate  
Bertie *[silent]*  
Mum

### 1932: Pub in a country town, Anzac Day

Cellarman  
First Digger  
Archie  
RSL Secretary  
Publican

### 1922: Western District, Victoria

Public Servant  
Farmer  
Second Farmer  
Third Farmer  
Mick  
Police Constable

### 1920: Bertha Downs, cattle station

Archie  
Manager  
Mate  
Old Hand

### 1929: Forest Lodge, Sydney

Nigel *[writing a letter]*  
Editor  
Reporter  
Subbie

### 1932: George Street

Nigel *[wearing sandwich board]*

### 1939: Cherbourg, by a fire

Ern *[has one arm]*  
Norm  
Soldier

**Song:** *On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand*

### 1935: A country cemetery, pauper's grave

Minister

### 1939: Murgon, a pharmacy

Ern  
Returned Serviceman

### Correspondence

First Letter  
Second Letter  
Third Letter  
Fourth Letter  
Fifth Letter  
Sixth Letter  
Seventh Letter

### 1927: On the Murrumbidgee

Bertie *[holding jar of dirt]*  
Grandad  
Mum

### 1937: Mount Gambier

Churchgoer  
Laurie *[collecting hymn books]*

### 1936: George Street

Nigel *[wearing sandwich board]*  
Stan

### 1956

Old Soldier

**Song:** *Recessional*

### 1993: The voice of the Prime Minister, at the Dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

### 1951: Callan Park

Psychiatric Nurse  
Nigel

**Bugler:** *The Last Post*

## Prescribed recorded live performance 2: *Dust Pilgrim*

### QUESTION 1



Evaluate how effectively key moments of dramatic action and meaning in *Dust Pilgrim* communicate the concept of hope depicted in the image. Argue a position with reference to the manipulation of the elements of situation and contrast in relation to the convention of motif.

OR

### QUESTION 2

‘I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.’

Excerpt from *Invictus* by William Ernest Henley

Argue a position connecting the concept of control depicted in the poem with key moments of dramatic action and meaning communicated in *Dust Pilgrim*. Justify your argument by evaluating the manipulation of the elements of tension and space in relation to the convention of ritualised movement.



## **Contextual information**

**Production company:** Red Leap Theatre

## **Creative**

**Co-directors:** Julie Nolan and Kate Parker

**Set design:** Poppy Serano

**Set mentor:** Andrew Foster

**Costume design:** Charlie Baptist

**Tour design:** Poppy Serano

**Lighting design:** Rachel Marlow

**Sound composition and design:** Thomas Press

**Imagery design and creation:** Kate Parker and Rachel Hilliar

**Dramaturgical adviser:** Paolo Rotindo and Gary Henderson

**Development cast:** Rob Mokaraka

## **Production**

**Stage manager:** Sophie Dowson

**Lighting and sound technician:** Rachel Marlow

**Mechanical operator and ASM:** Jamie Blackburn

**Publicity:** Elephant Publicity

**Videography:** Votre Arme

**Photography:** Simon Wilson Design, Josh Griggs and Andi Crown

**Design:** Awilaway Design and All My Springs

**Devising cast:** Alison Bruce, Ella Becroft and Tom Eason

## **Synopsis of the play**

*Dust Pilgrim* is a tale about Panuelo, a young woman who seeks to escape her oppressive mother and find a future outside her desert wasteland home.

## **Characters**

**Panuelo**

**Mama**

**Panuelo's Father/The Skeleton**, puppet manipulated by the actors

**The 'Nuns'**

**The Ringmaster**

**Circus Performers**

**The Angel**, the angel without wings, who is also trapped in the sideshow of 'freaks'

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## References

### *Black Diggers*

Enoch, W (director) 2014, *Black Diggers*, Queensland Theatre and Sydney Festival (recording of simulcast live performance), QPAC in partnership with The Pilbeam Theatre, Rockhampton.

Wright, T 2015, *Black Diggers*, Playlab: Fortitude Valley, Queensland.

### Question 1

NAIDOC 2014 Poster 'Defend our Land' <https://www.naidoc.org.au/posters/poster-gallery/naidoc-2014-poster>

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### Question 2

Excerpt from Oodgeroo Noonuccal n.d. 'Son of Mine' in *Enjoy the Earth Gently: Poetry for Junior Secondary Students*, SK Powell (ed.), 1997, Australia, Macmillan Education.

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### *Dust Pilgrim*

Nolan, J & Parker, K (directors) 2016, *Dust Pilgrim*, Red Leap Theatre, (recording of live performance), Te Whaea Theatre, Wellington, New Zealand, <https://redleaptheatre.co.nz/productions/dust-pilgrim>.

### Question 2

Henley, WE 2018, *Invictus: Selected Poems and Prose of W. E. Henley*, United Kingdom, Sussex Academic Press.



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