

Playing Beatie Bow

BY RUTH PARK

ADAPTED BY KATE MULVANY

DIRECTED BY KIP WILLIAMS

CURRICULUM LINKS

DRAMA STAGES 4 & 5

- Dramatic Forms and Performance Styles: Realism/Scripted Drama

DRAMA STAGE 6

- Improvisation, Playbuilding and Acting
- Elements of Production in Performance
- Theatrical Traditions and Performance Styles: Realism

ENGLISH STAGES 4 & 5

- Appropriation of an Australian novella
- Textual Concepts: Genre, Imagery, Character, Narrative, Point of View, Context, Representation

HISTORY STAGES 4 & 5

- Australian history and Colonial Sydney
- Making a nation

PLOT SYNOPSIS

The Rocks: Sydney's most historic and mysterious suburb. Full of twisting laneways, hidden staircases and the Harbour glinting in the distance, The Rocks is a place where the past and the present co-exist and, from time to time, blur into one another.

Into this world comes Abigail, a fiercely independent teenager who's moved to the suburb with her recently separated mother. Coming to terms with her new normal as well as all the tribulations of being a teenager, Abigail feels at odds with her life and out of place in her new home.

When Abigail follows the haunting spectre of a little girl, she finds herself transported back through the mists of time to The Rocks in 1873. There, with the help of her new companion Beatrice "Beatie" Bow and her family, Abigail embarks on a thrilling adventure to find her way back to the present day and in doing so learns what 'home' really is.

CAST AND CHARACTERS

Tony Cugin	Weyland/Mr Bow/Cast
Lena Cruz	Kathy/Cast
Claire Lovering	Dovey/Cast
Heather Mitchell	Margaret/Granny
Sofia Nolan	Beatie Bow
Rory O'Keeffe	Judah/Jonah/Cast
Guy Simon	Johnny Whites/Cast
Catherine Van-Davies	Abigail Kirk/Cast
Ryan Yeates	Gibbie/Vinnie/Cast

STYLE

Magical Realism
Music and Song

RUNNING TIME

Approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes
including interval

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- How is choral singing used?
- How is the theatre used? How do set and lighting elements conjure different locations and time periods?
- How do you know when the time period has changed?
- Can you identify two different moods throughout the play and how they are created?

CONTENT WARNING

- Allusion to suicide
- Low level coarse language