

JULIA

**BY JOANNA MURRAY-SMITH
DIRECTED BY SARAH GOODES**

CURRICULUM LINKS

NSW Drama Syllabus

Drama Stage 5 and 6

- Stage 5 Dramatic Forms and Performance Styles: Scripted Drama
- Stage 6 Monologues
- Stage 6 The Voices of Women in Theatre (Joanna Murray-Smith)

NSW History Syllabus

History Stage 5

- Stage 5 Modern World and Australia – Overview, Depth Study 4 or 6

NSW Drama Syllabus

Themes and Ideas

- Gender and Politics
- Power
- Australian Politics

BSSS Drama A-T-M & Studies of Drama A-T-M Units

- Communicating Meaning in Drama
- Independent Study

PLOT SYNOPSIS

On 9 October 2012, Australia's first and, so far, only female prime minister Julia Gillard took to the podium during question time to respond to a motion proposed by the then-leader of the opposition, Tony Abbott. The motion accused Gillard of sexism and called her leadership into question.

In the months leading up to this moment, Gillard had repeatedly been criticised in the media and by politicians

from across the Australian political spectrum for her unmarried status, her appearance, her decision not to have children and for her general demeanour which many commentators considered to be categorically unfeminine.

Inspired by the hypocrisy that she perceived to be motivating this accusation of sexism, Gillard delivered a now-historic speech that became an instant viral sensation around the world and cemented her position as one of Australia's most impactful and memorable political figures.

This play is an imaginative deep dive into the psychology of that speech and the woman who made it. It is an attempt to trace the influences and hidden histories that all came to head on that day in 2012, and an electrifying study of the power of words and the machinations of democracy as they function in the twenty-first century.

CHARACTERS AND CAST

Young Woman	Jessica Bentley
Julia	Justine Clarke

FORM AND STYLE

- Realism
- Ancient Greek Theatre (Tragedy)
- Expressionism
- Political Theatre
- Shakespearean (Elizabethan) Theatre

APPROX. DURATION

1 hour 40 mins, no interval

CO-PRODUCER

CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE