

### THE BREADTH OF BOVELL

Andrew Bovell gives insight into the turbulent lives of Australians. Below is a brief outline of works for stage and screen written by Andrew Bovell that show the breadth of his stories and the breadth of his ability as a writer.

# STRICTLY BALLROOM (CO-AUTHOR FOR 1992 SCREENPLAY)

Scott Hastings is a champion calibre ballroom dancer. Much to the disgust of the ballroom dancing community, he is an advocate for using his own steps. Scott meets Fran, an ugly duckling and beginning dancer. She asks Scott to be her partner and together they set out to win the Pan Pacific Ballroom dancing championships.

#### SPEAKING IN TONGUES (1996)

Later made into the movie *Lantana* in 2001.

Two couples set out to betray their partners...a lover returns from the past and a husband doesn't answer the phone... A woman disappears and a neighbour is the prime suspect...

In this piece, an evocative mystery unravels at the same time as a devastating tale of disconnection between individuals, partners and communities.

## WHEN THE RAIN STOPS FALLING (2008)

Alice Springs in the year 2039. A fish falls from the sky and lands at the feet of Gabriel York. And it still smells of the sea. It's been raining for days and Gabriel knows something is wrong. Fifty years earlier, his grandfather, Henry Law, predicts that fish will fall from the sky, heralding a great flood which will end life on earth as we know it.

In an intricate, multi-layered story that spans four generations and two continents, *When the Rain Stops Falling* explores patterns of betrayal, abandonment, destruction, forgiveness and love. This powerful drama unfolds with humanity, surprising humour and hope, as the past plays out into the future.

#### THE SECRET RIVER (2013)

Based on the novel by Kate Grenville.

Convict William Thornhill discovers that the penal colony offers something that he never dared to hope for before: a place of his own. A stretch of land on the Hawkesbury River is Thornhill's for the taking.

As he and his family seek to establish themselves in this unfamiliar territory, they find that they are not the only ones to lay a claim to the land. The Hawkesbury is already home to a family of Dharug people, who are reluctant to leave on account of these intruders. As Thornhill's attachment to the place and the dream deepens, he is driven to make a terrible decision that will haunt him for the rest of his life.

These summaries have been taken from australianplays.org.au

