

PRE-SHOW IN-THE-KNOW

TITLE

The Hanging by Angela Betzien
Directed by Sarah Goodes

CURRICULUM LINKS

Links to HSC Drama Individual Project text *War Crimes* by Angela Betzien

Contemporary Australian Theatre

Australian Gothic Theatre

Crime Thriller

ABOUT THE PLAY

Two school girls are missing in Melbourne's hinterland. The clock is ticking, the search is on. The one clue is their closest friend and confidante. Beguiling and quick-witted, this 14-year-old ingénue won't give up her secrets easily. What exactly will the police uncover and what does her English teacher have to hide?

Award-winning playwright Angela Betzien (former Patrick White Patrick White Playwrights' Fellow) has created a tense and tantalising crime thriller. As the girls' secrets are unravelled, the sinister side of their privileged school is exposed. The more famous the names and the more respected the families, the more dangerous the truth becomes.

Drawing on Australia's lasting fascination with the way our vast country can swallow people whole, *The Hanging* is a mystery waiting to be cracked open. Who will you believe?

CAST AND CHARACTERS

Iris Hocking – Ashleigh Cummings
Ms. Corrossi – Genevieve Lemon
Detective Flint – Luke Carroll

STYLE

Contemporary Australian Theatre
Australian Gothic Literature
Thriller
Heightened Realism

RUNNING TIME

1 hour and 25 minutes, no interval

THEMES AND IDEAS

Youth, Ageing and Beauty
The Australian Landscape
Young Women as Untrustworthy
Rebellion and Youth Identity Formation
Time
Intertextuality