

PRE-SHOW IN-THE-KNOW

TITLE

The Long Forgotten Dream by H Lawrence Sumner
Directed by Neil Armfield

CURRICULUM LINKS

Drama and English Stage 5 and 6

2018–2021 HSC Drama Topic 2:
Contemporary Australian Theatre

Drama Stage 5:
Dramatic forms and Performance styles

Aboriginal Studies Stage 5 and 6

English Stage 5 and 6

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Jeremiah Tucker is in his mid 50s. He lives tucked away on the windswept coastline of South Australia's Coorong region. Lately, he's been having strange turns. He fears he might be sick. But is there something wrong with his mind or his heart?

His daughter Simone, has just returned from two years overseas. She's been researching a PhD in archaeology and tracking down the stolen remains of King Tulla, her great-grandfather.

Having located the bones of their ancestor, Simone is now working with the local pastor to organise a formal welcome home for Tulla's remains. Jeremiah has been asked to speak over the bones but is resistant, terrified of stirring up painful events from the family's past. But in the small town where they live, the past is always present. It has never been laid to rest.

CAST AND CHARACTERS

Jada Alberts/ Shakira Clanton (Alternate) –
Simone Tucker/Deborah

Wayne Blair – Jeremiah Tucker

Nicholas Brown – North/Mandeep

Brodi Cubillo – Young Jeremiah

Melissa Jaffer – Gladys Dawson/Erica

Ningali Lawford-Wolf – Lizzie/South Spirit

Wesley Patten – Young Jeremiah

Justin Smith – Pastor Henry Gilles/Old Man Gilles

STYLE

The play is in the style of Magic Naturalism.

RUNNING TIME

2 hours and 15 minutes, including interval

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- The naturalistic scenes combine with scenes in the spirit world and *The Dreaming*, with the two worlds co-existing on stage.
- William Barton, the composer, creates live music and sound on stage during the performance, adding to the overall theatrical effect.
- The cloth and the sand, the major set elements, represent the landscape and sky from Coorong.
- Magic Naturalism and how this form of theatre is presented in the script and the production.
- Direct address and questions to the audience from the character of Dr Singh.

FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

The Long Forgotten Dream is a new Australian play by H Lawrence Sumner.

“The play's main themes are the three R's: Reconciliation, Repatriation and Reparation. Different characters represent different themes. Simone represents the theme of Repatriation, through her search to find her great-grandfather's bones. Father Henry represents Reparation and the sins of the past that need to be atoned for, believing that restitution needs to be made. Reconciliation is a running theme that runs across the play and the character's journeys. The overarching theme of the play is healing, both in a spiritual sense for the characters and in a national way.” (Sumner, 2018).