

Pre-Show In-The-Know

The Torrents

WRITTEN BY ORIEL GRAY

DIRECTED BY CLARE WATSON

CURRICULUM LINKS

DRAMA

Stage 6

Links to Topic 1: Dramatic Traditions in Australia

Links to Topic 3: The Voice of Women in Theatre

Stage 5

Dramatic Traditions and Performance Styles: Realism/
Scripted Drama

PLOT SYNOPSIS

It's the 1890s in the gold fields of Australia. J.G. Milford has hopped off the train in Koolgalla to take on a job at the local paper. She's smart, she's savvy, she's incredibly qualified, but nobody knew the J stood for Jenny!

Inspired by the ideas-driven comedies of George Bernard Shaw, Oriel Gray's *The Torrents* is a newsroom drama married to a screwball comedy. On the one hand, debate is raging about whether the town should give up mining for a more sustainable economic future. On the other, newspaper editor Rufus Torrent and his son Ben are vying for Jenny's favour, even as she pulls apart their chauvinistic assumptions.

The Torrents was written in 1955. That year, it was joint winner of the prestigious Playwrights' Advisory Board Competition with *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*. In the role of Jenny, award-winning comedian and actor Celia Pacquola (ABC's *Rosehaven*) will put the spotlight back on this rarely seen Aussie classic.

CAST AND CHARACTERS

Gwynne	Emily Rose Brennan
Kingsley	Luke Carroll
Rufus Torrent	Tony Cogin
Ben Torrent	Gareth Davies
Bernie	Rob Johnson
Christy	Geoff Kelso
Jock McDonald	Sam Longley
J.G. (Jenny) Milford	Celia Pacquola
John Manson	Steve Rodgers

STYLE

Naturalism
Comedy

RUNNING TIME

1 hour 40 minutes

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Period Costumes from the 1890s
- A Prologue where Celia Pacquola speaks directly to the audience about the play
- The Dolly Parton song "9-5" is played as part of the Sound Design