

WRITTEN BY DOUGLAS POST
DIRECTED BY FAITH JESSEL

EARTH AND SKY

13 MAY TO
4 JUN 2022

EDUCATION PACK



**THE PAVILION
THEATRE**
HOME OF THE **CASTLE HILL PLAYERS**
IN THE SHOWGROUND SINCE 1966

About the Pavilion

In the Showground since 1966

Welcome to the Pavilion Theatre.

The Pavilion Theatre is a non-profit theatre located in the Hills District, Sydney. It is home to the Castle Hill Players, one of the most respected community theatre companies in Australia, who have been delighting audiences since 1954.

For almost 70 years, the Castle Hill Players have provided high quality, affordable theatre to the Hills area - and beyond! The construction of the Metro in 2019 has allowed audiences from all over New South Wales to flock to the theatre and enjoy the gold standard of theatre.



Booking Information

Prices and How to Book

All tickets \$25.00

Tickets \$20.00 for groups of 10 or more, with one complementary teacher ticket per 10 students.

Contact us at (02) 9634 2929 to book your tickets. A booking fee of \$6.60 (inc. GST) applies per transaction (not per ticket). Our phones are operated from 11am–6pm (Mon–Fri).

Bookings for each production open 2 months prior to its opening night.

Performance Times

13 May to 4 June 2022

Fri 13 May 8pm

Sat 14 May 8pm

Sun 15 May 4pm

Wed 18 May 8pm

Fri 20 May 8pm

Sat 21 May 8pm

Sun 22 May 4pm

Wed 25 May 8pm

Fri 27 May 8pm

Sat 27 May 8pm

Sun 28 May 4pm

Wed 1 June 8pm

Fri 3 June 8pm

Sat 4 June 8pm

Post-performance Q&A sessions available on request

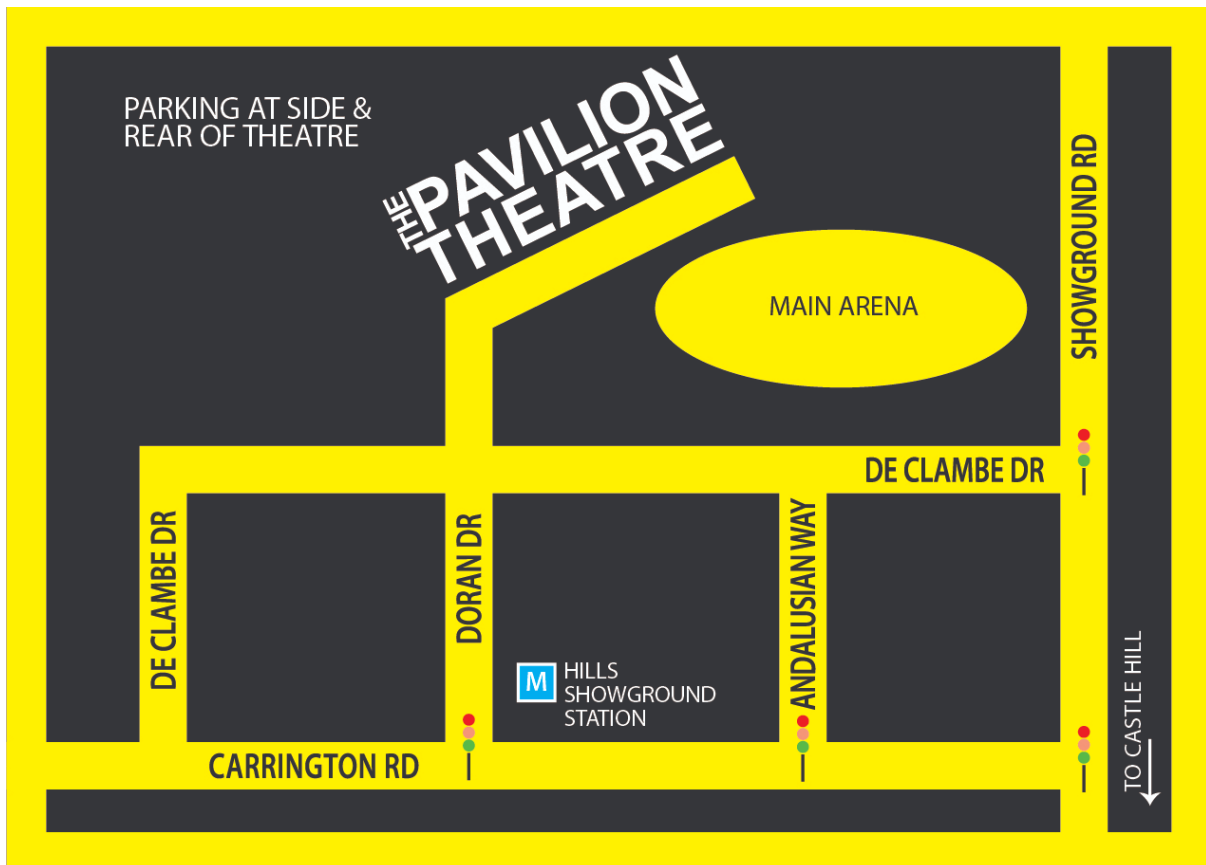
Getting to the Pavilion

By Metro Train

Get the Sydney Metro to Showground, as you exit the station turn right and walk up Doran Drive into the showground and follow around the edge of the Arena.

By Car

From Showground Rd, turn into DeClambe Drive, then right into Doran Drive, you will normally find parking just beyond or behind the theatre.



About the Play

Earth and Sky

By Douglas Post

Sara McKeon has her head in the clouds, living in the safe, rarefied world of libraries and poetry readings. Then her lover is found dead in an alley and it appears that he may have been involved in several nefarious activities.

Unable to believe that the man she gave her heart to was a killer, and outraged that the police seemed to have closed the book on the case, Sara begins her own investigation of the crime and is led deeper and deeper through the urban labyrinth into Chicago's underworld.

She may be naive, but she's also whip smart. Though Sara's inquisitiveness and sense of justice might just lead her down a road from which she'll never return.

In true film noir style, infused with suspense, thrills and startling wit, Earth and Sky will leave you breathless. Will you be able to put the pieces of this peculiar puzzle together before the end of the night?

Curriculum Links

Suitable for: Stage 5-6

Subject Links: English, Drama

Earth and Sky has relevance to the following units of study:

- Common Module: Texts and Human Experiences (Stage 6 English)

For more detailed curriculum links, please see [here](#).

Theatre Etiquette

Please:

- Turn mobile phones to silent and then turn off
- Do not talk during the show - laughing is welcome (and at comedies, encouraged)
- Sit in the assigned seat on your ticket
- Applaud at the end of each act (it is respectful to the actors)
- Open any snacks before the beginning of each act
- Do not take photos or video during the show
- If attending a Q&A session, please ask questions of relevance to the play or theatre process.

Earth and Sky has a 20 minute interval.

Pre-Show Activities

Prediction Activity

Tell students the name of the play; *Earth and Sky*. Have students write a short prediction about what they think the play will be about. Then, read the summary on page 4. Have students engage in a discussion about the accuracy of their predictions.

Research Activity

Have students conduct research and create presentations about the play and its context. Some suggested areas of research include:

- Douglas Post, the playwright
- Film noir
- Thrillers
- Non-linear plots

Design Activity

The play has a film noir feel. In groups, have students discuss how they would design set, lighting, sound and costume to evoke the black and white sinister feel of a traditional film noir on a stage. Have students present their design ideas to the class, and discuss the similarities and differences between their proposals. Students might also like to discuss the distinct acting style associated with film noir.

Drama Activity

Have students experiment with the ways they can build suspense with only their bodies, only their voices, and both combined. Discuss what most effectively built suspense for the audience and why.

Writing Activity

Have students compose imaginative pieces of writing in which they attempt to build a feeling of suspense in the reader, then discuss the techniques they employed to do so, considering how some of these techniques might translate to the stage.

If you are attending a post-performance Q&A, have students prepare questions to ask.

Post-Show Activities

Prediction Activity

Have your students discuss the accuracy of their pre-show predictions. Have them discuss why their predictions may or may not have been accurate.

Writing Activity

Focus on Common Module: Texts and Human Experiences

Have students compose a paragraph explaining how the non-linear plot impacted the representation of complex human emotions and relationships.

Focus on Drama

Have students compose a paragraph analysing how *Earth and Sky* used set to contribute to the growing suspense.

Review Activity

Have students compose a review of the play. Their reviews could include:

- A brief synopsis of the play
- A review of the acting performances
- A review of the design elements (i.e. costume, set, lighting and sound)
- A review of the technical elements (i.e. backstage crew, lighting and sound operation)
- Links to the Elements of Drama (for Drama students)

We would love it if you could send us some of the reviews your students write.

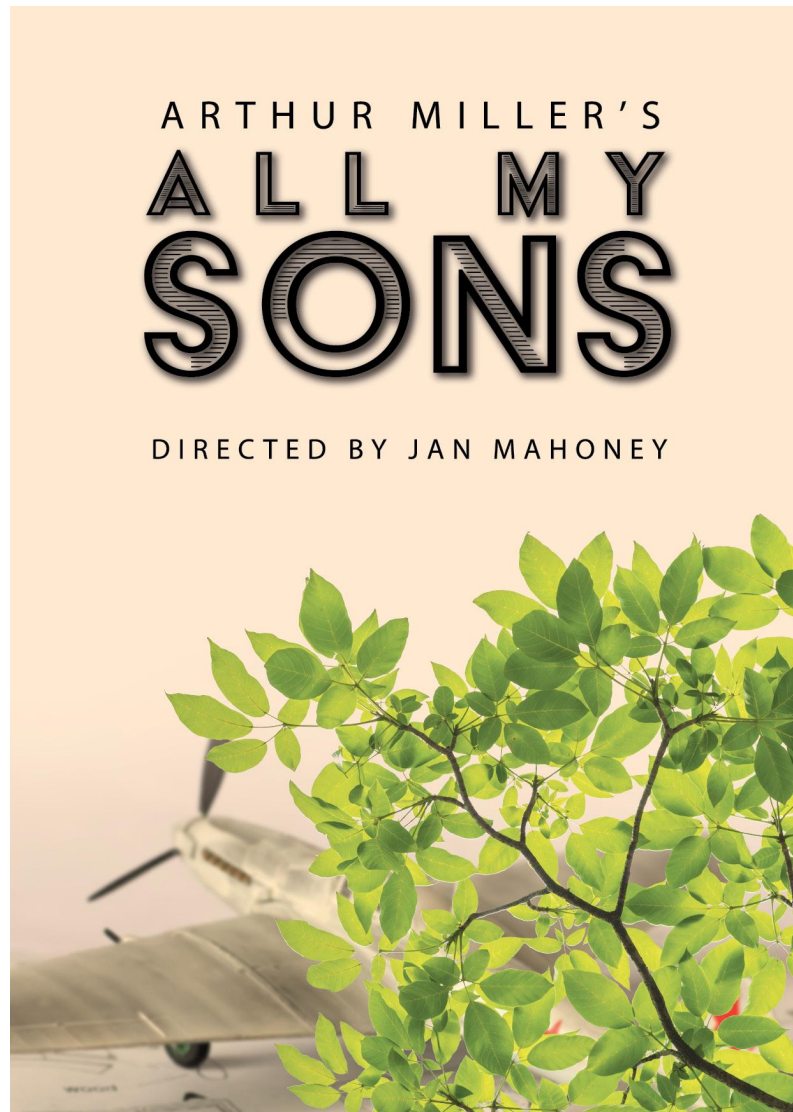
Design Activities

If students created designs for *Earth and Sky* prior to attending the production, have them compare their designs to the designs used in the production. Have them discuss why their designs were similar or different.

Additionally, have students analyse the ways in which design has been used to create character, setting and mood. Production photos are available upon request, including suggested questions to help guide student analysis.

Season 2022

Join us for our next production



All My Sons

By Arthur Miller

Directed by Jan Mahoney

29 July - 22 August
Tickets available now!

Contact Us

If you enjoyed your experience at the Pavilion Theatre and want to get involved, you can join the theatre as a member. Members of our theatre are involved in a number of ways, not just acting! We are always keen for new faces to help backstage, in the bio box and designing our shows. If you'd like to help out in any way but are not quite sure how, we'll show you the ropes! To learn more about how to join our theatre, click [here](#).

Follow us on Facebook and on our new Instagram for updates on all our productions.

 Pavilion Theatre - Castle Hill Players

 @pavilionatchp

Feedback

We'd love your feedback about the show, our educational resources and any resources that would assist you with future productions. Please complete this [post-show survey](#).