

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



UNAUSTRALIA

by Reg Cribb

EXTRACT

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CHARACTERS

(This play was written for 14 actors)

ALI – Lebanese Man: Surfer & Law Student

MANNIE – Aboriginal surfer: Ali’s best friend

FADI: Lebanese Man: Younger Brother to Ali

SIMEONE – Young female surfer: Crulla local

NADIA – Lebanese girl: Younger sister to Ali

AKHMED – Fadi’s cousin

DENNIS – Leader of the ‘Australia First and Foremost Party’

GAVIN – Young man from Lithgow: Team Leader of ‘Patriotic Youth Wing’

BARTHOLOMEW and HEIMI– ‘Patriotic Youth Wing Members’

GUSTAV – Secretary of ‘Australia First and Foremost Party’

EDWINA EVERYWHERE – Head of major T.V network: Multiple Logie winner

LIFESAVER 1 & 2 – Aussie lifesavers at Crulla beach

SUNBATHER 1& 2 – Female sunbathers at Crulla Beach

GLENYS & RAELEEN - Homeless couple from ‘Crulla’

MR. & MRS. DYER – Owners of fish and chip shop at ‘Crulla’

SARGENT THOMAS – Policeman at Crulla Beach

JENNY GNOCCI – Presenter of SBS show – *HINDSIGHT*

SHOCKJOCK – Talk Back radio presenter

VARIOUS – Protestors at demonstration, BENITA and Boys kicking soccer ball at park

SCENE 1

We see three figures standing in the darkness. One of them speaks. It is a male voice.

ALI: I love this beach. I love it. I love it's lumpy outside break. The way the shore curls around the bay until you lose it up by the smoke stacks. The way the southerly smacks you in the face like seaweed and vinegar... And I love it when the sky is so grey it just can't wait to piss all over your dreams.....

Another voice comes out of the darkness. It is female.

SIMEONE: Fuck man I know this...this...beach...this bay, this sand....what's underneath the sand, and whats underneath that! Whatever it is.....I know it. I know it better than the Abos. I do!

I know what the break is gonna be like out there in the morning before I even open my eyes. I am Tooheys New, wax head, grommit brain and this is *all* I know so...how could I not love it....

We hear another male voice.

MANNIE: These sand dunes, they're strainin' to touch the sky. When white fellas walked across them for the first time, they were lookin' for 'flora and fauna'. I think they swam on this beach with their skinny white arses. We laughed at their skinny white arses. We thought we were safe. We were wrong...

ALI: I've loved down here. I've prayed down here.

Ali steps into the light. He is of 'Middle Eastern appearance'

I've had a one legged seagull shit on my head down here.
And once...just once....I was the only person standing on this beach.

He breathes in the salt air then goes down to his knees with a prayer mat and starts to pray towards Mecca.

Simeone steps into the light. She is an Anglo surfie.

SIMEONE: And...you now... my grandfather fought a World War to give me the right to just....stand here...on this beach...

Fuck man....I'm allowed to fight for it....aren't I?
Aren't I?

Mannie steps out into the light. He is Aboriginal.

MANNIE: I am Saltwater people. This place...this beach...for my people for thousands of years has been *Kurrawalla*, the place of small pink seashells. This beach got plenty of stories and they're all inside here.

He holds a shell up.

The sound of a sea swell being sucked through a shell.

A soccer ball is kicked on to the stage.

SCENE 2

Down at the beach. It's a hot day. 2 young Lebanese men begin kicking the soccer ball around. One of them is tearing towards the other one and commentating at the same time.

AKHMED: Fabio Grosso! He breaks clear! Seconds remaining! Italy sniff victory...

FADI: Lucas Neill slides in! What A save!

FADI slides in towards AKHMED.

AKHMED: Oh no! It's a penalty! The umpire has awarded a penalty against Lucas Neil! Heartbreak for Australia!

FADI: Could this be the end of a dream!

AKHMED: It's cruel! Oh so cruel!

The ball gets kicked towards two girls sunbathing. AKHMED saunters over to collect it.

AKHMED: My ball please...

SUNBATHER1: You kicked it over here and it was like.... so deliberate.

AKHMED: I'm a shit soccer player. Which kinda sucks cos I really wanna play for the Socceroos. See Fadi over there. He's my cousin. He *will* play for the Socceroos.

SUNBATHER1: One of your mates called my friend a dirty Aussie skank last week. She was just... like sunbaking.

AKHMED: That woudna been one of *my* mates...

SUNBATHER 1: Really? Coz he looked a lot like your cousin.

She points to FADI

Lights down

SCENE 3

Three surfers are out waiting for a wave.

SIMEONE: This is total pus out here today.

MANNIE: Yesterday was pumpin'.

ALI: Yeah well I was workin'. Heard it was closin' out.

MANNIE: Yeah it was modest but it was chunky.

Pause

What does that view look like to you?

They both look at the shore from different angles.

ALI: Like something that was never meant to be.
And no-one could work out how the fuck it got that way.

SIMEONE: Like the Gold Coast.

MANNIE: Don't knock the Gold Coast. I left something very precious behind there.

ALI: What?

MANNIE: My virginity.

ALI: I lost mine just over there behind the kiosk.

MANNIE: Too much information Ali. I can't even look over there now.

ALI: Don't look then.

MANNIE: I'm not lookin'!

ALI: Where did you lose yours Sim?

SIMEONE: I think it was the kiosk. I was pissed.

MANNIE: Yes! I knew you were a kiosk girl.

They high five

SIMEONE: Did ya see the Sharks lost....again.

ALI: Yeah. I actually woke up believing they had won.

MANNIE: Ya dreamin' mate.

Lights down

SCENE 4

*Back at the beach.
Two lifeguards enter.*

LIFEGUARD 1: Ya wanna kick ya ball around somewhere else?

FADI: Free country.

LIFEGUARD 2: Take your ball....somewhere else.

FADI: Scuse me. We are playing the world game here.

LIFEGUARD 1: You're pissing off the punters.

AKHMED: We are re-enacting a defining moment in our history.
You don't want us to be part of that?

LIFEGUARD 2: Take your ball.....somewhere else Ahmed.

AKHMED: It's Akhmed.

LIFEGUARD 2: Okay Akhmed. We're not tellin' ya again.

AKHMED: Okay no worries Grant.

LIFEGUARD 2: It's Graham.

AKHMED: Oh sorry. See from here, ya look a lot like Grant Kenny. Mr. Nutri-Grain.

FADI: Where you want us to take our ball?

LIFEGUARD 2: How about Beirut.

FADI: That's really fuckin' funny Grant Kenny.

LIFEGUARD 1: Don't annoy those girls again.

FADI: Why don't you just, you know... come and rescue them.

LIFEGUARD 1: Why don't you just, you know... fuck off.

The lifeguards laugh.

All this flesh down here. Must be doin' your head in.

FADI: *You're* doin' my head in.

LIFEGUARD 2: I'd love to perve at *your* women. I really would. If they didn't get around all day lookin' like a Teletubbie.

AKHMED: Would you perve at my sister then?

LIFEGUARD 2: Has she got a moustache?

AKHMED: Nah she's beautiful. But she wouldn't suck your dick if ya sprinkled tabouli on it.

The Lebanese boys high five each other.

LIFEGUARD 1: What do you say to a Muslim woman with two black eyes?

LIFEGUARD 2: What's to say? You already told her twice!

LIFEGUARD 1: Did you hear about the inflatable Muslim sex doll?

FADI: Yeah, it blows itself up.

FADI throws the ball hard at one of the lifeguards. He catches it. FADI walks up to him and eyeballs him.

That's my favourite.

LIFEGUARD 1: Get off the fuckin' beach.

FADI: Like I said Grant Kenny. It's a free fuckin' country.

They stare each other down for a beat. Then the lifeguards walk off. The boys resume their game.

SCENE 5

Back out on the waves with the three surfers.

ALI: I think, it's time we officially declared Simeone the best female surfer in the Shire.

SIMEONE: I'm the *only* female surfer in the Shire.

MANNIE: Don't matter. You were a bit of a dick drag at first....

SIMEONE: Thanks.

MANNIE: ...but now...on behalf of myself, the Kurrawalla Kid and Prince Ali Saladin here, we dub you our Queen of the waves.

She gives Mannie a big seductive smile.

SIMEONE: Yeah? I like the way you say that.

ALI: Shall I give you two a bit of space?

*Simeone looks to Mannie.
Mannie looks to the shore*

MANNIE: Is that your brother?

ALI: Where?

MANNIE: On the beach. With a soccer ball.

Ali cranes forward on his board

ALI: Yep that's my cockhead brother. With my cockhead cousin.
Gotta go in.

Lights Out

SCENE 6

On the beach. The day is getting hotter. The Lebanese boys spot the girls sunbaking again. They smile at each other then launch into a rap sequence. One of them is providing the vocal percussion the other is doing the lyrics.

AKHMED: Pah pah paaah. Wakah, wakah...

FADI: 'See we da crew dat come down da beach
We like da girls dey peachy peach
Us Lebo boys we don't want much

AKHMED: Turbo charged SLR 500!

AKHMED and FADI: Uh Huh!

FADI: I'm street legal ribbin' it down Brighton Le Saaands
You wanna ride with us down to Lebo land
To Lebo land Hey Hey!'

AKHMED: Pah pah paaah. Wakah, wakah...

The boys take a bow

FADI: Thank you very much....thank you very much.

AKHMED: You should see our early work, very misunderstood.

FADI: We're multi talented. I speak three languages.

AKHMED: Yeah English, Lebo and SMS.

One of the girls suddenly stands.

SUNBATHER 1: What are ya lookin' at?

FADI: You.

SUNBATHER 1: Why?

FADI: Um....coz you want me to.

SUNBATHER 1: I so don't.

FADI: Right. Is that why ya standin' there like a big slut?

AKHMED gives a shocked laugh

SUNBATHER 1: What did you fuckin' callin' me?

FADI: You heard me.

*The sunbather suddenly pulls her bikini top down
The boys stare open mouthed.*

SUNBATHER 2: Sonya!

SUNBATHER 1: You like that?

FADI: Yes.

AKHMED: Me too.

SUNBATHER 1: You love it don't you?

FADI: Yes.

SUNBATHER 2: Sonya siddown!

SUNBATHER 1: How much do you love it?

FADI: Can't find the words.

SUNBATHER 1: Which one do you like?