

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



The Journey

by Valerie Foley

EXTRACT

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THE ACTORS INTRODUCE THEMSELVES TO THE AUDIENCE EXPLAINING THEIR NAMES, THE CHARACTER THEY WILL PLAY AND THE RELATIONSHIPS THE CHARACTERS HAVE WITH EACH OTHER. THEY ALSO SAY THAT THIS STORY/PLAY CANNOT BE TOLD WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE AUDIENCE.

THEY SEEK HELP TO MAKE THE WINGLESS FLIES IN ANTARCTICA, THE PLANETS PLINK AND PLUNK AND THE ALIEN SPACE BABIES IN SPACE. THEY ALSO EXPLAIN THAT THEY NEED FIVE PEOPLE TO HELP MAKE THE BOAT AND FIVE PEOPLE TO MAKE THE BABY CROCODILES IN THE JUNGLE. THE VOLUNTEERS ARE TAKEN ASIDE TO REHEARSE FOR A MOMENT AND THE REMAINDER OF THE AUDIENCE REHEARSES MAKING THE WATER.

THEY THANK THE AUDIENCE FOR THEIR HELP AND SIGNAL THAT THE JOURNEY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

THE SPACE IS STREWN WITH TOYS, CLOTHES AND BITS OF FABRIC. THERE IS A HUGE BOX SITTING UNDER A CLOTHES LINE.

LILY EMERGES FROM THE INSIDE OF THE BOX. SHE IS DESPONDENT.

LILY

He's gone.

SHE SEARCHES THROUGH THE BOX SOME MORE.

I'm never going to see him again.

THE SEARCH BECOMES MORE FURIOUS.

What if he gets lonely?

SHE SINKS BACK INTO THE BOX.

TOM ENTERS HOLDING TEDDY. TEDDY HAS A PAPER BAG OVER HIS HEAD. TOM SITS HIM ON THE TOP OF THE BOX.

TOM

Do you know where you are, teddy?

TEDDY SHAKES HIS HEAD NO.

Want a hint?

TEDDY NODS YES.

It's big. And it's full of toys.

TEDDY LOOKS AROUND EXPECTING SOME FUN.

And-

TOM QUICKLY DUMPS TEDDY INSIDE THE BOX.

-you have to stay in there for the rest of your life!

LILY EMERGES FROM THE INSIDE OF THE BOX HOLDING TEDDY.

LILY

Tom!

TOM What?

LILY Look what you did to teddy.

TOM Mum told me to.

LILY She did not.

TOM She did so.

LILY Mum!

TOM She can't hear you. She's gone next door for a half an hour.

LILY Why?

TOM I dunno. To talk to Terrie's Mum about something.

LILY What?

TOM I don't know, Lily. Probably to try and give you away.

LILY She is not.

TOM She is. She says you're too much trouble.

LILY I am not.

TOM And teddy is way too much trouble.

LILY He is not, are you, teddy? No... I'm no trouble at all.

LILY AND TEDDY START THROWING BITS OF FABRIC AND THINGS OUT OF THE BOX.

TOM Lily! We have to put all this stuff in the toy box.

LILY Why?

TOM Because it all has to be packed away when Mum gets back.

LILY Why?

TOM Because we're moving house, remember.

LILY Why?

TOM Just because.

TOM STARTS TO PICK THINGS UP AND PUT THEM IN THE BOX.

LILY SULKS IN THE BOX.

TOM Lily, come on.

LILY GETS OUT OF THE BOX AND THEY CONTINUE TO PACK UP.

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TERRIE APPEARS WHILE THE OTHER TWO HAVE THEIR BACKS
TURNED AWAY FROM THE BOX.

SHE CROUCHES BEHIND THE BOX, AS TOM AND LILY CLEAN UP,
TERRIE BOBS UP AND THROWS A CLOTH AT TOM.

TOM Lily!

LILY What?

TOM Stop throwing things everywhere.

LILY I'm not.

TOM Well, who is then? Teddy?

LILY No...

THEY PACK AGAIN. TERRIE BOBS UP AND THROWS ANOTHER
CLOTH.

TOM Just stop it. OK?

LILY But-

TOM Just pack, Lily.

LILY AND TEDDY MAKE FACES BEHIND TOM'S BACK.

TERRIE CREEPS OUT AND THROWS A CLOTH OVER TOM'S
HEAD. SHE RUSHES OUT AND GRABS HIM.

**TERRIE I caught him! I caught him! The rare skinny legged,
blue headed emu. I'll be the most famous bird catcher
in the world.**

TOM RUNS AROUND LIKE A TRAPPED EMU. HE TURNS FERAL
AND CHASES TERRIE.

Back birdy... keep away...

TOM Hey, bird catcher. Do you want to go water skiing?

TERRIE Yeah. Start the engine, Tom.

TERRIE GRABS ON TO THE EDGES OF THE CLOTH AND THEY GO
WATER SKIING.

LILY HANGS ABOUT ON THE EDGES WATCHING.

TERRIE Slow down or we'll crash!

THEY CRASH AND ROLL ABOUT LAUGHING.

We have to swim for it!

TOM Because a shark is after us.

THEY SWIM FAST.

TERRIE And a whale is after the shark.