

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



You Still Here?

by Patricia Cornelius

EXTRACT

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YOU STILL HERE?

The use of slides and music in 'You Still Here?' are vital accompaniments to the to the script. They provide an evocative and mostly abstract sensory level and can at times, work in isolation from the script.

The play has been written for 15 young people. Much of the language forms a kind of chorus interspersed with numerous small roles. Each performer will take on a number of roles.

ALL ARE LINED UP, FACING AUDIENCE. ALL, WITH A SUITCASE IN HAND OR A BACKPACK ON BACK. LIGHTS UP - PAUSE.

1. I'm out of here.
2. I'm off.
3. Getting out.
4. Going.
5. I'm leaving.
6. Taking off.
7. I'm gone.
8. Shooting through.
9. I've had it.
10. On my way.
11. See you later.
12. Sydney here I come.
13. One dole cheque's a plane fare out of here.
14. I won't be back.
15. Good.....bye!

AS EACH PERSON ENDS THEIR FOLLOWING LINE THEY PEEL OFF TO THE BACK OF THE SPACE.

1. It's dead here. Everything's shut by 5 o'clock. I'm going to rage; nightclubs, bands, discos. Only stop when it's light.
2. All that's here are trees, trees and more trees.
3. The first thing I'm going to do is catch a train.
4. On the mainland you can drive for 8 hours and still not get to where you're going.
5. I'm going to make it on the mainland.

6. I'm going to completely change my identity, no-one will know me. I can be anyone I want.
7. I'll actually be able to go to live concerts, see bands which never get here.
8. I'm going because everybody else goes. I'm sick of being the one who's left.
9. I'm going to get myself a job. Two years on the dole here but on the mainland I reckon I'll be working within a week.
10. Who cares about the mainland. What's main about it when you think of London or New York. The only stop for me on the mainland is the international airport.
11. I'm not hanging around here to be the last to go. If I'm going to die I'd rather go first.
12. Sick of being safe. I want to see what's out there and if it's dangerous - good.
13. Everything happens over there - anywhere else but here. Nothing happens here.
14. I'm going.....because everyone says you should.

THERE IS ONE TRAVELLER LEFT STANDING IN THE CENTRE OF THE STAGE, HER BAG BESIDE HER. SHE IS A MAINLANDER.

M/L: When I was 11 years old my parents told me we were leaving Sydney and going to live in Tasmania. (As if speaking to her parents) Tasmania! Where's that? I've never heard of it. I'm not going! (To audience) I was happy in Sydney, I had friends and I liked school. I didn't want to go. But then my parents told me, Tasmania was an island. We were going to live on an island.....(enticed) an island.....