

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



# Spilling Bodies

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by Margaret Davis

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EXTRACT

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This script is distributed by The Australian Script Centre  
77 Salamanca Place Hobart 7004 Tasmania Australia  
email [admin@ozscript.org](mailto:admin@ozscript.org)  
[www.ozscript.org](http://www.ozscript.org)  
ph +61 3 6223 4675  
fax +61 3 6223 4678

## SCENE 1 Thrills and Spills

*A giant rope web, like a spider's, suspended above the heads of the audience.*

*Music: Sarah Hopkins' Awakening Earth*

*The Man Falling Apart (ADAM) is hovering on a high ledge. The Falling Girl (HELEN) is on a swing suspended from the web at eye level with the audience.*

*The Boy Who Fell from Grace (FIN), is suspended above the audience in a frame with wings - suggesting both an angel and a hang-glider.*

*The Fallen Woman (EVIE) is high up a ladder near the web.*

*A single light on HELEN. She swings in and out of light.*

*HELEN takes flash photos of the other three.*

*Images of them flash up on parts of the set as she does this.*

HELEN: Name for what I -  
feel for how I - my eye. Not open is eye?  
No, dark, dark.  
Eye...lid.....blink, blink, dark, light, dark light!

*Twists her body away as if from a too-bright light .  
HELEN takes photo. FLASH. Image: Empty swing.*

HELEN: No! Not light! Blink not not, light not, NOT light!

*Body twists. Images: Self-portraits of Helen with bits missing.  
She struggles to stand on the swing*

HELEN: (very fast)  
Blink blink flash flash  
flashlight torchlight sun-dapple sunlight  
headlight streetlight neon light  
flood light floods brain brain fizz  
brain sparks  
fizz - sparks - clash - spike - cross - fuse -  
No - no! No - no! - -

*Her body is now convulsing, swinging out of control.*