

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



I Said a Word

by Stephen House

EXTRACT

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characters

boys

Ren
Morgan
Murray
Loxy
River
Wake
Mark

girls

Blanche
Mera
Day
Bonney
Love
Swan

The kids are around 16 to 18 years old. Loxy is younger and Wake the oldest.
Other kids in addition to the characters may be used in most group scenes.

design note

The play is set in a clearing in the bush by the river in the riverland SA. Rubbish ie old cars / metal objects / drums / crates may serve well. A fire is built and lit at one stage in the play. There is dark hard beat music that accompanies the play in places.

Hip Hop would suit well.

A loud beat follows many statements. This could be delivered by a real drummer or be included in the soundscape. At times a mood changing abstract soundscape would work.

Certain scenes would benefit from choreography and movement work.

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SCENE 1

MUSIC LOW AND HARD.

REN WALKS AROUND THE PARK. STARES OUT. MUSIC LOWERS.

REN I said a word. Now. Yeh. Now. PACES. Now is the word ... now. PACES. MUSIC UP HE JUMPS ROUND THE PARK. MUSIC LOWERS. ENTER MORGAN.

Tough Morgan. There is no such thing as militas ... when tough kicks in.

MORGAN Don't you start the Loxy crap too. I'll put this beer in the esky.

REN Thanks. Say a word.

MORGAN Popular. Hows that? I said a word. Popular.

REN Relates to before ... talking about Murray and the crap he gets. Yeh, I like it ... popular.

MORGAN Unpopular.

REN Murray?

MORGAN Very very unpopular. Right now.

REN Yeh ... very I suppose.

MORGAN He'll come tonight. We got music?

REN Yeh. And there'll be some others too. SILLY. Groovy bunch man.

MORGAN Groovy's not very groovy man. It sounds like something your mum would say. I will definately stay up all night.

REN Me too.

MORGAN Mera said Blanche is coming.

REN Blanche?

MORGAN Yeh.

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REN Those stories!

MORGAN And did you hear about the play?

REN Yeh I heard. HE LAUGHS AND JUMPS AROUND. This is going to be so cool tonight.

MORGAN For sure.

REN We're mates now hey ... aren't we?

MORGAN Yeh! Hey! THEY SLAP HANDS TOGETHER.

REN Then. It was their way of keeping us weak. Turning us against each other. No friends makes it easier for them. Loxy says it's the Militas way.

MORGAN I forgot to get Loxy's beer.

REN Is it tough when you build something up against what always was ... when you change something to be better?

MORGAN Survival maybe.

REN Survival. Yeh. We changed it.

MORGAN Just ignored it probably. Became mates. Yeh ...takes toughness I'd say.

REN Yeh.

MORGAN TURNS UP GHETTO BLASTER. ACTS CRAZY. MUSIC UP. THEY RUN ROUND. DANCE JUMPING ON THINGS. MUSIC DOWN A LITTLE BUT CONTINUES LOW THROUGHOUT THE SCENE AND FADES OUT.

REN Good sound man.

MORGAN Yeh.

ENTER MARK IN A RUSH.

MARK Have you guys seen Swan?

MORGAN Earlier in town I did.

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MARK Yeh ... Ok ... see you guys later then. Here, put this in the esky for me.
BEER. Don't let Loxy drink them either. OK see yu.

EXIT MARK.

REN So where is everyone then? Hey! RUNS ROUND. Strength in numbers.
SHOUTS Strength in numbers. I said a word. Strength.

MORGAN You're psychotic.

REN Don't I look different too ... now. PARADES You like this? JACKET.

MORGAN You don't look that different. Still an ugly fuck.

REN Thanks. You too mate.
TAKES TWO BEERS OUT OF THE ESKY. THEY DRINK. SILENCE.
Thanks Mark. THEY LAUGH.

REN Morgan.

MORGAN Yeh.

REN I was a real nerd then ... wasn't I?

MORGAN Were or are?

REN Until this. Now. Now is now ... wow ... now. Yeh. You know sometimes I
really think about revenge. PACES. QUIETLY. I said a word ... revenge.

MORGAN It's not about revenge ... is it?

REN Na. I don't know. Suppose not. They piss me off though.

MORGAN Yeh. It can make you feel like it ... when you think back to then ... hey?
Some of those pricks.

REN Yeh. Revenge I reckon.

MORGAN Na. Not revenge. My dad's stuff's hydro ... not the garden stuff. Look.
SHOWS HIM A BAG.

REN Cool. Your dad's stuff's wicked ... so's he. Don't worry about their shit.

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MORGAN HE WALKS UPSTAGE. LOOKS OUT. A LOUD CRUEL LAUGHTER GROWS TO DEAFENING ROAR, THEN SILENCE. Fucking hell ... that's my dad.

REN He's OK your dad. Really mate.

MORGAN Yeh I know. They're always looking for someone to hammer. To make feel like shit. I heard a group of them chanting again as Blanche walked in the gate this morning. They were saying it real low, but just loud enough to hear. Over and over and over. She was just looking down. They kept saying it all day.

REN She'll be OK.

MORGAN Will she?

REN Probably.

MORGAN Would anyone?

REN We are. Aren't we?

ENTER MURRAY IN SCHOOL UNIFORM.

MORGAN Here's another one.

REN Yeh.

MURRAY Another what?

REN We were just talking about losers Murray. Losers who take all the shit.

MURRAY Great.

REN Like you.

MURRAY Thanks mate.

REN You found it then ... our spot.

MURRAY I've been here before. Mera and Blanche told me about tonight. Thanks for inviting me.

MORGAN We like you Murray. So are they still teasing you?