



**CURRENCY PRESS**

The performing arts publisher  
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**WAR THEMES CATALOGUE**

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### CURRENCY PRESS

The performing arts publisher  
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Tel: 61 (0) 2 9319 5877  
Email: [enquiries@currency.com.au](mailto:enquiries@currency.com.au)  
310/46-56 Kippax Street  
Surry Hills NSW 2010  
ABN 75 000 938 929

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## PLAYS: CURRENCY PRESS

Linda Aronson

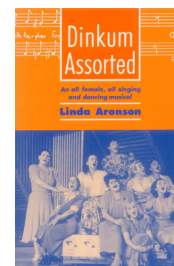
### DINKUM ASSORTED

A rousing musical comedy offering great entertainment and a slice of Australian social history, *Dinkum Assorted* is set in the small country town of Warrabadanga in 1942, where 15 female workers battle to keep the biscuits baking. Along the way they run a 'Mum's Army' Civil Defence Unit, put on a show for the War Effort, and cope with the fact that two thousand US airmen have just been stationed outside town.

15F

9780868192499

PB



Angela Betzien

### WAR CRIMES

A gripping story of six teenage girls who are fighting to earn respect and leave their mark by whatever means possible. Inspired by a spate of attacks on war memorials, *War Crimes* references landmark historical events such as the Cronulla riots and the ANZAC story to interrogate race and gender relations in contemporary Australia. The play draws correlations between the local and the global, between violence against women and a culture of masculinity and mateship.

5F

9780868199184

PB



Carolyn Bock/Helen Hopkins

### THE GIRLS IN GREY

Inspired by diaries, letters and post-war writings, *The Girls in Grey* provides a female perspective on the ANZAC legend. It tells the story of three Australian Army nurses battling horrific working conditions and witnessing the horror of war and the devastation of young men involved in front line conflict.

3F, 4M, doubling possible

9780868199429

PB



Grace Chapple

### NEVER CLOSER

Northern Ireland, 1987. Deirdre is stuck—between arguments, nations, and the lives she almost lived. But when her old schoolfriends gather in her kitchen yet again for Christmas Eve, their growing differences push to the surface a powder-keg, waiting for the tiniest spark. And then one of them turns up with her surprise fiancé. He's English.

3F, 3M

9781760628994

PB



Patricia Cornelius

### BOY OVERBOARD

A story of adventure, ball control and hope. Jamal and Bibi have a dream. To lead Australia to soccer glory in the next World Cup. But first they must face landmines, pirates, storms and assassins. Can Jamal and his family survive their incredible journey and get to Australia? Based on real life events, this is a moving play about young people overcoming the confusion of war, politics and the search for a safe haven.

6F, 9M

9780868198071

PB



## PLAYS: CURRENCY PRESS

### MY SISTER JILL

A universal tale of the Australian spirit set against the backdrop of 1950s to 70s suburban Melbourne, *My Sister Jill* is a powerful coming-of-age story from one of the country's most dynamic theatre collaborations, Patricia Cornelius and Susie Dee. The youngest in the family, Christine idolises her father, especially his stories of wartime heroics. Meanwhile, her sister Jill doesn't quite share the same sentiments. As the intensity of the Vietnam War looms, the stories slowly start to lose their shine and war threatens to break a new generation apart.

3F, 4M

9781760628239

PB 



### Eva di Cesare

#### WHERE THE STREETS HAD A NAME

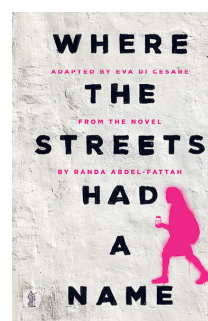
*Adapted from the novel by Randa Abdel-Fattah*

Hayaat and her family spend their days dodging curfews, trying to buy a week's groceries before the sirens blare, remembering their home among the olive groves before it was taken from them. But when the curfew breaks and her beloved grandmother Sitti is taken to hospital, Hayaat sets out on a mission to retrieve a jarful of soil from the family's old farm so she can grant Sitti's last wish of touching the soil of her homeland once more. All Hayaat and her friend Samy have to do is cross the hated wall that divides the West Bank and traverse the most dangerous patch of land on earth.

3F, 2M

9781760622107

PB 



### Eva di Cesare/Sandra Eldridge/Tim McGarry

#### HITLER'S DAUGHTER

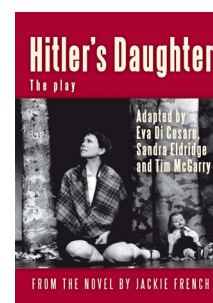
*Adapted from the novel by Jackie French*

Four country children waiting in the rain for the school bus take turns telling stories. In an unusual twist, Anna's story takes the children to Nazi Germany and an intriguing tale about Heidi, a young girl caught in the turmoil of World War II, whose father was one of the most dreaded men in history. One of the children, Mark, becomes engrossed in Heidi's story. In his conversations with his friends, his teacher and with his parents, he explores the moral and ethical issues it raises.

2F, 2M

9780868198132

PB 



### Nick Enright

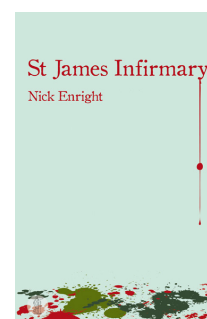
#### ST JAMES INFIRMARY

As protesters march against the Vietnam War, boys in a Catholic school prepare for their final exams. One student paints an anti-war mural in the cadet drill hall and is forced to confront the consequences of his action.

2F, 4M

9780868193441

PB 



## PLAYS: CURRENCY PRESS

Michael Fatcher/Helen Howard

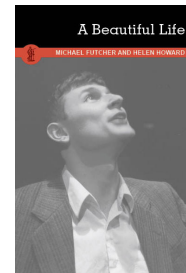
### A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

An Iranian family living in Australia attempts to escape memories of torture endured back home. Their role in the 1992 raid on the Iranian Embassy in Canberra leads to persecution by the Australian government. Based on a true story.

2F, 6M

9780868196053

PB 



Steve Hawke

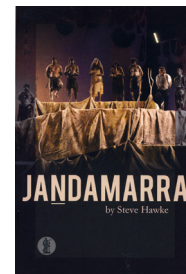
### JANDAMARRA

Jandamarra is a legend of the Bunuba people. He was only in his mid-twenties when he was gunned down in 1897, but in his short life he created a legacy that will never be forgotten. He led one of the longest and most successful campaigns to defend Aboriginal country in Australian history.

4F, 12M

9780868199733

PB 



R. Johns

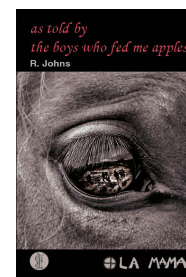
### AS TOLD BY THE BOYS WHO FED ME APPLES

Sandy was the only Australian War Horse to return home from World War I. This is his poignant and fragmented war story. Through Sandy we experience the lives of three men who fought in the war. Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges is mortally wounded at Gallipoli, and Sandy is his charger. A veterinary officer is caught with Sandy behind the lines on the Western Front in a gas shell barrage. A 'permanently unfit' soldier becomes a groom and brings Sandy home. Each is affected by their symbiotic relationship with the horse.

4M

9781760620523

PB 



Daniel Keene

### THE SERPENT'S TEETH

In *Citizens*, set at the dividing wall of a war-torn country, conflict is an unseen force which disrupts the everyday tasks of people battling to survive.

*Soldiers* is set in an Air Force hangar far from the battlefield. But for five families who have gathered to receive the bodies of their sons, brothers and friends, war does not seem so far away.

5F, 8M

9780868198385

PB 



## PLAYS: CURRENCY PRESS

Verity Laughton

### LONG TAN

On a hot, rain-sodden afternoon in 1966, in the glutinous mud of a rubber plantation in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, 105 Australian and three New Zealand soldiers clashed with approximately 2,500 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops. In the ensuing battle, 18 Australians and more than 245 communist Vietnamese died. The Battle of Long Tan was one of the most savage and decisive engagements of the Vietnam War, and one of the most significant in Australian military history. Composed from interviews with the surviving Australian soldiers, Vietnamese contributors and family and friends of those who died, *Long Tan* is a meditation on the fractures in collective memory, the consequences of extreme demands on human beings in military conflict, and the need for forgiveness, empathy and faith in our common humanity.

1F, 11M

9781760622411

PB



John Misto

### THE SHOE-HORN SONATA

In 1945, Sheila and Bridie were freed from a Japanese POW camp deep in the jungles of Sumatra, where thousands of women and children had lived and died virtually forgotten by their own governments. Now, after being separated for half a century, the filming of a television documentary forces them to relive the past and confront the terrible secrets that even the Australian government has tried to erase from history. Woven into their fifty years of separation are a shoe-horn and the threads of loyalty and love which form their 'uncommon bond'.

2F

9780868194813

PB



Ross Mueller

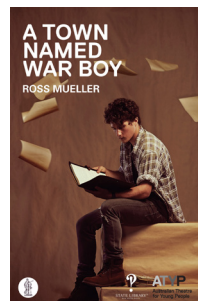
### A TOWN NAMED WARBOY

Inspired by the State Library of New South Wales' jaw-dropping collection of World War I diaries and letters, *A Town Named War Boy* explores both the events of war and the impact it has upon soldiers and their families. Written with insight, humour and sensitivity, Ross Mueller's moving play brings the ANZAC legend to life.

4M

9781925005394

PB



Kate Mulvany

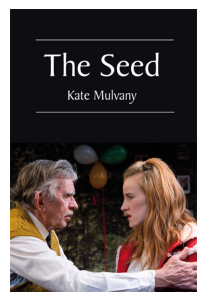
### THE SEED

Meet Rose Maloney. Her dad Danny went to Vietnam. Her grandfather Brian is ex-IRA. Today is their collective birthday. From this intimate reunion, *The Seed* opens itself up over and over again until a silent family battle becomes a national story about finding new life amongst the rubble of old wars. This play has a very special kind of honesty and humour to it which sorts the great lies we buy into from the reality we live through. A compelling, tightly woven and thrilling exploration of a very real family and the repercussions of war.

1F, 2M

9780868198262

PB



## PLAYS: CURRENCY PRESS

Terence O'Connell

### MINEFIELDS AND MINISKIRTS: Australian Women and the Vietnam War

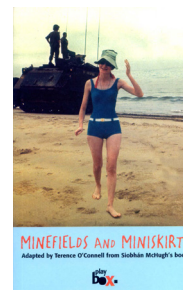
*Adapted from the book by Siobhan McHugh*

If history is told by the victors, the story of war is usually told by the blokes. Now it's the 'sheilas' turn. Nearly a thousand Australian women had a part in the Vietnam War as entertainers, typists, consular staff and army nurses. The one thing they have in common is that their lives were changed forever by Vietnam. For many of them it was the most vital and alive they had ever felt. *Minefields and Miniskirts* records the voices of those who were actually there: ordinary women revealing how they survived a war and discovered what they believed in.

5F

9780868197623

PB



Melissa Reeves

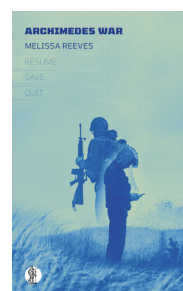
### ARCHIMEDES WAR

Arki loves playing war games online. He's also just beaten up his English teacher. A psychologist diagnoses something very serious. Soon Arki's hanging out with Aaron, a disturbed returned soldier, and both start hanging out with Baseer, who runs the best Afghan restaurant in Dandenong. All have been immersed in war. *Archimedes War* presents a dark and comic study of the depersonalisation of modern warfare. After trauma, how do we pause? Resume? Exit?

5F, 8M, doubling possible

9781760628130

PB



Sean Riley

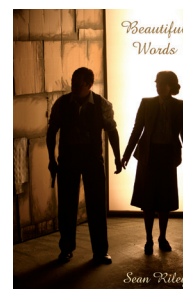
### BEAUTIFUL WORDS

An epic chronicle of the refugee experience, *Beautiful Words* weaves together three very different stories of survival, told through the eyes of three children in different times and places. The outcome is heart-rending, humorous, and surprising by turns. From the horrors of Auschwitz Concentration Camp in the final days of World War II, to Taliban-ruled Kabul, to present day Australia, this enthralling play presents a rich tapestry of human experience, overlapping lives, and the bonds that unite generations.

11F, 17M doubling possible

9780868198323

PB



John Romeril

### THE FLOATING WORLD (published in *Damage*)

Les and Irene are celebrating their wedding anniversary. Gifted with the holiday of a lifetime, they set sail on the *Women's Weekly* Cherry Blossom Cruise bound for the cultural mysteries of Japan. Les, a former WWII prisoner of war, soon finds himself confronted by old diggers, enemies and tormented memories. As the cruise ship floats closer towards its destination, Les' grip on reality floats ever further away. *The Floating World* is a resonating tale of the long-lasting effects of war and the ugly world of xenophobic Australia.

1F, 5M, 1 any gender

9780868198767

PB



## PLAYS: CURRENCY PRESS

Matthew Ryan

### DANNY FISHER

Danny Fisher is coming of age at a time when Australia faces the threat of invasion. When his beloved brother Frank is killed in the bombing of Darwin, Danny's family is ripped apart. Ignored by grieving parents, the awkward Danny is left to fend for himself, and to try to fill the shoes left behind. Thrust headlong into the threat of war and the hope of love, Danny, like his city, is growing up fast. Danny meets an American serviceman identical to his lost brother. But when the American begins teaching him how to fly, Danny comes up with a dangerous plan to prove his own worth. Ripe with emotional resonance and heart-breaking comedy, *Danny Fisher* is a celebration of a childhood and a city—and a requiem for all that was lost.

3F, 3M, 3 any gender

9781760622916

PB 



Samah Sabawi

### TALES OF A CITY BY THE SEA

Gaza, 2008. A Palestinian journalist writes poetry on the beach. A doctor must decide to stay or leave. Then come the missiles and the phosphorus showers. This is a furious and tender exploration of the fragility of freedom. The national collides with the personal as activism and reporting take to the stage. *Tales of a City by the Sea* uses poetry, tenderness and humour to explore the love between those who have choices, and those who do not. Language fails us when it comes to displacement and grief; yet Samah Sabawi's language cracks grief open and remains present, like the sea.

7F, 6M

9781925005813

PB 



### THEM

*"Across the sea that separates us from them life waits for us on the other side and I can't go there without you..."*

In an unnamed city at war, five young people count down the days before a boat leaves for Europe. Who will leave, who will stay, and what will their choices cost them?

2F, 6M

9781760626471

PB 



Toby Schmitz

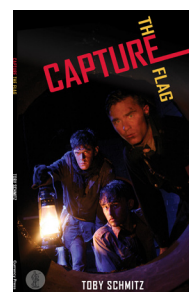
### CAPTURE THE FLAG

Exploring youth, militarism, history and free will, *Capture the Flag* is set in 1945, where three boys hide in a Berlin drain at the war's end. The rules of their favourite war-game have been changed and now the bullets are real. Two fight for supremacy while the third, an even younger boy, just wants to go home. His incomplete indoctrination and the closing threat of the Russians, force these two Hitler Youth to face the fact that the war has been lost. Adults have betrayed them. It's all been in vain.

1F, 3M

9780868199375

PB



## PLAYS: CURRENCY PRESS

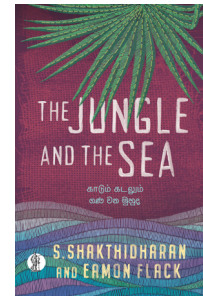
S. Shakthidharan/Eamon Flack

### THE JUNGLE AND THE SEA

War makes things of people. *The Jungle and the Sea* is about a family who refuse to become things while they are still alive. When violence escalates between the Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a Tamil mother vows to remain blindfolded until her family is together once again. Gowrie, Abi and Madhu search the jungles of northern Sri Lanka for estranged son Ahilan, while Siva and Lakshmi migrate to Australia for safety, awaiting their family's reunion. Separated by the ravages of civil war but buoyed by humour, playfulness and love for each other, so goes the story of many a migrant family that has wound up in Australia.

9F, 18M, doubling possible  
9781760628512

PB 



Kevin Summers

### PATIENT 12

It can be argued that nothing good, not one damned thing, came out of World War I. This play is a pillar of that contention. It is based on a true story of a young soldier who was returned home so badly damaged he was unrecognisable, apart from a single tattoo. *Patient 12* tells the story through the eyes of the doctor who becomes embroiled in the mystery of this soldier's identity, and starts a forensic journey to identify this man.

2F, 9M  
9781925005103

PB 



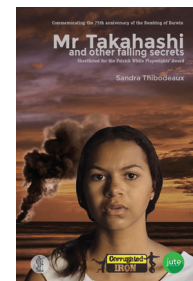
Sandra Thibodeaux

### MR TAKAHASHI AND OTHER FALLING SECRETS

Darwin, 1942. A town collapses under the threat of invasion. Mothers and daughters, sisters, friends, and entire cultures are torn apart by the secrets that start to fall. Is Mr Takahashi to blame? Japan unleashes a wave of attacks on Northern Australia, and Darwin is hit with more bombs than Pearl Harbour. *Mr Takahashi* turns the lens upon ordinary people caught in the storm that was World War II. It tells the stories of Darwin's multicultural and Indigenous women whose lives were forever changed by the bombings of February 19.

11F  
9781760620080

PB 



## PLAYS: NICK HERN BOOKS, UK

Josh Azouz

### ONCE UPON A TIME IN NAZI OCCUPIED TUNISIA

1943. Four months into the Nazi occupation of Tunisia. You're imprisoned in a labour camp. You're buried up to your neck in earth. You're dying of thirst, you miss your wife, and your best friend just pissed on your face. How could things possibly get any worse? Josh Azouz's *Once Upon A Time in Nazi Occupied Tunisia* is a brutally comic play about home and identity, marriage and survival, blood and feathers.

2F, 4M

9781839040221

PB



Howard Brenton

### CHURCHILL IN MOSCOW

Poland, 1949. The Kremlin, Moscow, 1942. A top-secret meeting between Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin: one, a wealthy aristocrat from a blue-blooded line of English nobility; the other, a Georgian peasant, hell-bent on destroying capitalism and the class system. Can these two leaders find common ground? As diplomats struggle to control the escalating chaos, two interpreters find themselves caught in the eye of the storm. Howard Brenton's gripping play *Churchill in Moscow* dramatises the historic meeting of two unpredictable titans as history teeters on a knife-edge.

3F, 4M

9781839044175

PB



Conor McPherson

### COLD WAR

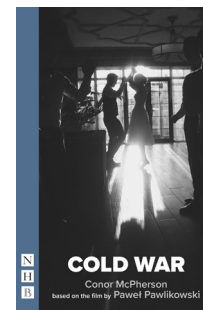
Based on the film by Paweł Pawlikowski

Poland, 1949. Zula is bold and brilliant, a singer who ignites the stage. Wiktor is withdrawn and damaged, a composer longing to write. Irresistibly drawn to each other, they dream of escape. But in Communist-controlled Poland, the desire for freedom can be a dangerous thing. Based on the film by Academy Award winner Paweł Pawlikowski, *Cold War* is an epic love story spanning the decades and breadth of Europe at its most divided, and a compelling story of passion, redemption, and the journey to be free.

6F, 7M

9781839043093

PB



Igor Memic

### OLD BRIDGE

Mostar, Yugoslavia, 1988. Mili, a boy from out of town, dives from the famous Old Bridge. Mina, a local girl, watches. As he falls, she begins falling for him. Mostar, Bosnia, 1992. In a town of growing divisions, Mina and Mili never doubt that their future lies together. But nor can they imagine the dangers that future will bring. Winner of the 2020 Papatango New Writing Prize, Igor Memic's play *Old Bridge* is an epic love story exploring the impact of a war that Europe forgot, and the love and loss of those who lived through it.

3F, 2M

9781848429758

PB



## PLAYS: NICK HERN BOOKS, UK

Katherine Moar

### FARM HALL

Summer 1945. Hitler is dead, but the war in the Pacific rages on. When six of Germany's top nuclear scientists—including three Nobel Prize winners—are detained by Allied forces at a stately home in the Cambridgeshire countryside, they find themselves shut off from the outside world. Their only distractions are board games, a broken piano and a copy of *Blithe Spirit*. The scientists' tranquil summer is shattered by the inconceivable news that the Americans have succeeded where the Germans have failed: the United States has not only built an atomic bomb, but they have used one against Japan. *Farm Hall* dramatises the true story recorded inside the bugged walls of the actual Farm Hall between July 1945 and January 1946.

6M

9781839042171

PB



Neda Nezhdana/Natal'ya Vorozhbit

### VOICES FROM UKRAINE: TWO PLAYS

Two powerful plays about the shattering impact of war, and the astonishing resilience of those living through it, written by two of Ukraine's leading playwrights. In *Take the Rubbish Out, Sasha* (Natal'ya Vorozhbit), Sasha, a Colonel in the Ukrainian Army, has died suddenly of a heart attack, leaving his relatives Katia and Oksana to mourn for him. But a year later, as war intensifies, the army has resorted to recruiting the dead and Sasha is anxious to be resurrected so he can rejoin the fight. *Pussycat in Memory of Darkness* (Neda Nezhdana) is an unflinching examination of Russia's war on Ukraine through the brutalised eyes of one woman. Donbas, 2014. A nameless woman stands in the street, trying to sell a basket of kittens. She has lost everything else she holds dear. Her only remaining hope is to find a home for the kittens, since she cannot offer them one herself.

2F, 1-2M; 1F

9781839041228

PB



Amanda Whittington

### THE INVINCIBLES

*The Invincibles* celebrates two generations of inspirational women, and their adventures on the football pitch a century apart. 1917: World War One is raging in Europe. In Britain, Sterling Ladies—known as the Dagenham Invincibles—are playing to win. For two whirlwind seasons, they never lose a game. Yet once peace is restored, the factory girls must hang up their boots and see triumph fade into obscurity. 2023: Injured footballer Maya follows England's progress through the Women's World Cup. The world has changed, yet the roar of the Lionesses echoes the Invincibles' war-cry. Watching at home, Maya fears she'll never play again—but as she loses herself in the present, she hears the call of the past and finds fresh hope for the future.

7F, 2M

9781839042898

PB





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