

Drifters & Dreamers

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Master of Arts in Writing (Research)

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORSHIP/ ORIGINALITY

I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

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ABSTRACT

Drifters and Dreamers is an investigation into the lives of misfits, outsiders and fringe dwellers of contemporary Australian life. My objective was to use the monologue form to contemplate the cause and effect of the marginalized and to examine the existing societal conventions that suppress individuality and freedom.

I developed separate stories around six key characters who were all drifters and dreamers – Rusty, Lily, Crackers, Magda, Juliet and Emilio. Extensive research was also part of my investigation which covered diverse areas such as genocide; the history of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia; the British bomb tests at Maralinga; hearing impairment; the nature of depression and homelessness. Finally, a seventh character – Herta - was created as a stylistic device to unify the work and create a through-line to the stories. Herta crosses between each character's landscape and acts as a seer, guide and messenger. The nature of dreaming and dreamers was also explored throughout the film, often through the use of Magic Realism.

Drifters and Dreamers is a screenplay about loss, loneliness, belonging, freedom, love, renewal and redemption. It takes the form of six monologues for television, (approximately 10 minutes each), which exist as separate episodes or alternatively as a one hour drama.

DRIFTERS & DREAMERS

By Bettina Richter

a series of six short monologues
for television

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The disenfranchised, the lost, the outcast, the
drifters and the dreamers.
Join six people on a journey of loneliness, freedom,
and a search for self, in a place where magic really does
happen.

CHARACTERS

RUSTY

A dogger recalls the pain of his childhood in a land that doesn't forget its past.

LILY

A young Khmer Australian woman discovers her father's secrets through the magic of everyday objects.

CRACKERS

Mister Personality connects with his roots.

MAGDA

An overweight housewife becomes a missing person.

JULIET

A deaf Goth is rescued from suburban monotony.

EMILIO

A travelling magician and his journey through grief and loss.

HERTA

An old enigmatic woman who transcends boundaries and is a guide, seer and commentator for all that she meets.