VCE Theatre Studies 2019 Monologue Characters

Eight of the 10 prescribed monologues from 2019 are represented across the Top Class Theatre Studies Online program.

*Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler from an adaptation by Christopher Bond

Characters: Mrs Lovett and Todd

Sweeney Todd returns to 19th-century London after years in Australia, where he was transported due to a false conviction. He meets pie-shop owner Mrs Lovett, reveals his former identity as barber Benjamin Barker, and hears that his wife has died and his daughter is entrapped by Judge Turpin, the same man who sent him to Australia. Todd swears revenge. Mrs Lovett presents him with his old straight razors, encouraging Todd to take up his previous profession. As Todd kills people in his barber’s chair, Mrs Lovett bakes his victims into pies, and together their businesses prosper.

*The Sea-Gull*   
By Anton Chekhov

Characters: Nina Zarietchnaya and Trigorin

*The Sea-Gull*, written in 1895, portrays the romantic and artistic conflicts of four characters, including well-known writer Boris Trigorin, and the young Nina Zarietchnaya, daughter of a rich landowner. The story is set on a provincial Russian estate. In Act I, Nina steals away from her parents to perform in a play written by her lover, for an audience that includes Trigorin. In Act II, after Nina expresses her envy for Trigorin’s successful artistic life, he tells her of its difficult obsessions.

*Picnic at Hanging Rock*By Tom Wright, adapted from the book by Joan Lindsay

Character: Elizabeth / Appleyard

On a summer outing in 1900, three schoolgirls and their teacher vanish from a Valentine’s Day picnic at Hanging Rock. Tom Wright’s adaptation follows five schoolgirls in the present day struggling to solve the mystery. As the play unfolds, it explores the effects of the original disappearances on the present-day school and community.

*Carrying Shoes into the Unknown*By Rosemary Johns

Character: Alice

Set in Iran in the 1970s, this play is a fictionalised account of historical events. It is based on the story of a Western family living through the chaotic last days of the Shah, and the rise of Ayatollah Khomeini. Alice Matthew arrives in Iran to stay with her parents, and finds herself at risk, both as a woman and as a Westerner who doesn’t understand Iranian culture.

*The Encounter*By Complicité/Simon McBurney, inspired by the novel Amazon Beaming by Petru Popescu

Character: Loren and Barnacle (Loren voice-over)

This play tells the true story of *National Geographic* photographer Loren McIntyre. In 1969, Loren was lost among the people of the remote Javari Valley in Brazil’s Amazon. The story focuses on Loren’s encounter with the nomadic Mayoruna tribe, his relationship with head shaman Barnacle, and his exploration of human consciousness.

*The Madness of George III*By Alan Bennett

Character: King (George III)

This fictional account of the latter part of George III’s reign tells the story of the King’s mental ill health, and the difficulties involved in managing his condition. Set in 1786 at the midpoint of the King’s 60-year reign, his behaviour is becoming erratic and his mind is unravelling at a dramatic pace. His eldest son, the Prince of Wales, schemes with ambitious politicians to undermine the power of the throne.

*Hoods*By Angela Betzien

Character: Hoods

Each night two ‘hoods’ ride a train to a wrecking yard on the outskirts of the city, where they become the storytellers. On the night the play is set, they tell the story of three children left in a parked car, waiting for their mother. As night approaches the car park takes on a dark and sinister aspect. Their mother hasn’t returned and the youngest child, a baby, won’t stop crying. Exploring issues of poverty and family violence, *Hoods* is a suburban tale of survival and solidarity against the odds.