

BLAU

PRELIMINARY
EDUCATION NOTES

TES

La Boite

La Boite & QUT Creative Industries present

BLACKROCK

By Nick Enright

Nick Enright

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LA BOITE
THEATRE COMPANY



La Boite Theatre Company is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland

La Boite Theatre Company is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its funding and advisory body

BLACKROCK

ABOUT

A party on the beach, drugs, booze and surf. But by morning a young woman lies dead on the sand, beaten and raped. Who is responsible? This incredible human drama examines the social impulse to violence within Australian culture, within young males, within us all.

Blackrock, Nick Enright's hard-hitting modern classic, is one of those plays that grabs you and does not let go. *Blackrock* builds on several interlocking themes, first of sexual violence, of class and generational conflict, and the difference between a friend and a mate.

This unique collaboration between La Boite and QUT Creative Industries sees the next generation of actors, QUT Bachelor of Fine Arts, Final Year Acting Students take on the iconic young roles alongside an ensemble of professional actors.

CAST & CREATIVES

Director: Todd MacDonald

ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME

(Please note this will be confirmed closer to the production): 90 minutes no interval

CURRICULUM LINKS

- Realism
- Naturalism
- Australian Story
- Based on True Events

WARNINGS

(Please note these will be confirmed closer to the production):

- Coarse language
- Description of rape and murder
- Violence
- Suggestions of underage drinking and drug use
- Suggestions of sex

THINGS TO PONDER

CENTRAL THEMES:

Gender, mateship, Class, death and grief, guilt, adolescence and growing up, family

- Discuss the very Australian theme of male mateship and where and how we are taught this.

Create scenes representing moments of this. Think about the impact of space, place and time on mateship. Here's some prompts for scenes:

Place	Think about...
Battlefield	Each World War, Vietnam compared to now.
Pub	Think about different era's
Beach	Think about how place impacts or informs character
Playground	Think about age
Footy Field	Think about Australian mateship linked specifically to sport – even the code of football brings with it a different set of behaviours.
Party or Nightclub	Think contemporary contexts or campaigns like, 'One Punch Can Kill'
Online or on Social Media	How does mateship look across different spaces or contexts?

- Research articles or videos about contemporary masculinity. Here's some to get you started.
 - https://www.buzzfeed.com/matwhitehead/shredding-for-stereo-types?utm_term=.bsaQZvwlY#.uIJ7BybNo
 - <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/life/weekend-australian-magazine/man-up/news-story/c382c09741fa57fb5fada6766ee82404>
 - <http://www.executivestyle.com.au/what-makes-a-man-27qfi>

- Read about the actual events that inspired the two play versions and film
 - CONTENT WARNING *details of Leigh Leigh's rape and murder:*
<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/sticks-and-stones-the-killing-of-leigh-leigh/3563758>
 - <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/06/12/1086749943697.html>
- Watch the film version of Blackrock

The following links describe great content to create in-class activities:

- <http://readingaustralia.com.au/lesson/blackrock/>
- <http://readingaustralia.com.au/essays/blackrock/>
- <http://internetclassroomaustralia.blogspot.com.au/2007/05/drama-15-nick-enrights-black-rock.html>