

A Sunburnt History

Australian Classical Theatre

An Irishman, an Englishman and a horse go on an epic journey across Australia. Sound like a joke? The Burke and Wills expedition of 1860 from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria largely was...

Over 60 frantic, funny and furious minutes, two actors bring to life dozens of historical figures in a bid to recreate Australia's most disastrous adventure.

From embarrassing committee decisions and shoddy selection processes, through to the swamps at the Gulf, the audience follows the journey mistake by mistake as it actually happened. Utilising varied theatrical styles and conventions the pair weave a fast-paced, entertaining and informative tale of Australian history based on journals, letters, notes and transcripts from the expedition. Using multiple perspectives, including a couple of plucky camels and one of history's most overrated incompetents – Robert O'Hara Bourke – this is not history retold but re-examined. If you think you know the true heroes, think again.

This performance is also an ideal teacher professional development opportunity, with the actors, who are qualified educators, leading a discussion on how to engage students in primary sources via performing arts.



TOUR DATES

3 – 14 JUNE 2013

IDEAL FOR

YEAR 9 – 12

(up to 300 students) and teachers of History and English

DURATION

60 MIN + Q&A

Base rate of \$780 + GST for up to 130 students with additional students \$6 each LESS Eligible Subsidy (see page 35)

AusVELS Links: Civics and Citizenship; Interpersonal Development; The Arts; English; Humanities (History)

VCE Links: Australian History; Drama; Theatre Studies; English; Foundation English

General Capabilities: Critical Thinking

Artforms: Drama

Key Themes: Primary Sources, Leadership, Learning from Mistakes



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On the Road, Term Two