

JMC ACADEMY PRESENTS

PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

Adapted by Tom Wright
from the book by Joan Lindsay



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Picnic at Hanging Rock, written by Joan Lindsay and later adapted for the stage by Tom Wright, has become one of Australia's most enduring and enigmatic stories. Since its publication in 1967, the tale has captivated audiences with its haunting ambiguity, inspiring numerous interpretations across film and theatre. Wright's adaptation embraces a bold, ensemble-driven theatrical style, leaning into the story's fluidity and mystery. In this production, the graduating actors of JMC Academy bring the work to life at Chapel Off Chapel, inviting audiences to step into its unsettling and timeless world.







ABOUT THE ROCK

Rising from the plains of Hanging Rock, this ancient volcanic formation has long held a reputation for mystery and unease. For the Wurundjeri people, it is a site of cultural significance, while for others, it has become synonymous with the eerie events imagined in Joan Lindsay's *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. This story blurs the line between reality and myth. Visitors often describe an uncanny atmosphere, as though time shifts and something unseen lingers just beyond perception. It is this strange, almost hypnotic presence that has inspired generations of storytellers, including Tom Wright in his adaptation, to explore the unknown spaces between logic and imagination. In this production by JMC Academy, performed by its graduating cohort, the Rock remains both a setting and a character, silent, watchful, and unresolved.

COMPANY



**MRS. APPLEYARD
PICNIC CAST**

Jenna Valentini



**MRS. APPLEYARD
ROCK CAST**

Patricia Williams



**IRMA LEOPOLD
ROCK CAST**

Elisha Day



**IRMA LEOPOLD
PICNIC CAST**

Sophie Guscott



**EDITH / SARA
ROCK CAST**

Ella Breene



**EDITH / SARA
PICNIC CAST**

Akina Kennedy



**MICHAEL
FITZHUBERT**

Hatty Becker



**MADAMOISELLE /
ALBERT**

Tyga Wheatley

CREATIVE TEAM



DIRECTOR

Annabelle Tudor

“Our production of Picnic at Hanging Rock highlights the repression of young women in the colonial “New World.” It explores their brief escape into a transformative landscape, shedding societal constraints and awakening to something instinctual. As the Rock seduces and consumes, their disappearance raises questions of liberation versus tragedy. The search for the girls, driven by men, suggests they may be “beyond saving” and better off where they are. Ultimately, the audience is confronted with a choice: the Rock or the marriage bed? Which would you choose?”



LIGHTING DESIGNER

Sidney Younger



SET DESIGNER

Ishan Vivekanantham



COSTUME DESIGNER

Jessamine Moffett



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Tom Russell



SOUND DESIGNER

Jack Burmeister



STAGE MANAGER

Laura Hook



ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Ilana Cooke



MOVEMENT COORDINATOR

Deborah Leiser-Moore