



AI 愛. 能 MAY

QCAA DRAMA SYLLABUS REFERENCE SHEET

AI MAY addresses the following Inquiry Questions (QCAA Syllabus 2019)

Unit One SHARE

- How can we use drama to celebrate, document, empower and share understandings of the human experience?

AI MAY offers a bicultural theatre experience which draws together a range of codes and conventions, including surtitles, to explore human emotion and agency in the age of technology. It offers a shared space in which the languages of grief, resilience and renewal are explored by a professional team of artists who create a vibrant and thought-provoking theatre experience for audiences.

- How can we recreate people's stories in linear and non-linear dramatic forms?

AI MAY's structure is both linear and non linear. The creative team play with the classic three act structure introducing episodes of butoh and multimedia underpinned by an Asian - Australian inspired soundscape to tell a contemporary story.

- How can people's stories be shared through making and responding to drama as ensemble and audience?

AI MAY presents an example of strong ensemble work. Post-performance discussions can be arranged enabling audiences to interact with the creative team and explore the key themes and ideas of the production. Furthermore, as a bi-cultural work of art, AI MAY speaks to audiences from across our community, sharing and supporting new understandings.

Unit 2 REFLECT

- How can we use representational dramatic traditions to inform, empathise, chronicle and document lived experiences?

AI MAY uses Realism under the umbrella of Futuristic Realism, a form of Realism that whilst honouring traditional Realism, engages with social, political, or ethical issues relevant to contemporary society. Writer Amy Chen Yu Wang uses a futuristic setting to explore and critique issues of intergenerational trauma, cultural dislocation and human agency in the age of AI. Amy does so in new and provocative ways.

Futuristic Realism is not Science Fiction but Realism speculating on future dynamics of human experience. AI MAY looks at our use of griefbots to help us grieve in a world of mobile phones, AR Glasses and AI Brooches.

- How can we manage dramatic languages to reflect the human condition?

AI MAY explores two central questions a) What does it mean to be human? and b) What is the nature of grief? The work is highly theatrical utilising a range of performance styles, in particular realism, butoh and AI driven performance styles performed on a minimalist set amidst an imaginative lighting and multimedia design. Audiences are left reflecting upon our choices for a future which honours empathy and community.



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The production also contains shades of Magic Realism creating a richly textured theatre experience which articulates our contemporary human condition.

Unit 3 CHALLENGE

- How can we shape dramatic languages to communicate and challenge an understanding of humanity at this time?

AI MAY taps into the zeitgeist to reflect our current circumstances, shining a light on our human qualities constantly obscured by rising technology. It puts the 'feel' back into feeling.

UNIT 4 TRANSFORM

- How can you manipulate and shape dramatic languages to communicate to 21st century audiences?

AI MAY is a new work and therefore the creatives have endeavoured to manipulate and shape dramatic languages of our time including AI Generated Multimedia to interact with actors performing Realism and Butoh to express a contemporary global dilemma.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

The team at AI MAY is happy to offer our help to your students in anyway we can. If you would like to request a cast and creative Q and A after the show please email robot@aimay.org (subject to cast and crew availability).

For all other AI MAY content and creative inquiries please email:

amychienyuwang@gmail.com to reach out to Embodi Founder, playwright and director Amy.

or

strubehelen@gmail.com to contact dramaturg Helen Strube.



Embodi Theatre presents

AI 愛. 能 MAY

Grief. Love. Loss.

BOOK NOW

Dear Teacher,

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm reaching out to introduce a unique cultural and educational opportunity for your students—a bilingual theatre production titled AI MAY. Given your dedication to fostering language skills and cultural awareness among your students, I believe this play would be an enriching experience that aligns perfectly with your teaching objectives.

About the Play:

AI MAY is a poignant and thought-provoking play by generation 1.5 Taiwanese Australian Amy Chien-Yu Wang that delves into themes of intergenerational trauma, cultural divides, and the complexities of interracial relationships. The narrative follows the journey of Mother, a character caught between the expectations of her traditional Asian culture and the realities of her life in a multicultural society. The play also explores the intricate dynamics of Asian parent-child relationships which will resonate deeply with migrant families and first generation Australian students.

What sets AI MAY apart is its bilingual presentation, with dialogue and surtitles in both Mandarin and English. The surtitles are embedded into the stage design, ensuring accessibility for all audience members, including those whose first language may not be English. This play can offer a practical application of language skills in a real-world context to your students.

We believe that AI MAY offers a valuable opportunity for students to experience theatre while deepening their understanding of language and culture. We would be delighted to have your students join us for this performance, and we're confident that it will be an inspiring and memorable experience for them.

Embodi Theatre - About Us

Embodi Theatre is an emerging Brisbane-based independent multicultural theatre company committed to producing refreshing purpose-driven stage productions that authentically reflect migrant experiences and create social change. Our mission stems from a desire for more migrant stories to be told and seen in Australia. We firmly believe that genuine multicultural harmony thrives when cultures understand each other's differences and similarities through storytelling and thoughtful efforts to bridge cultural and linguistic gaps.

Venue: - PIP Theatre, 20 Park Road, Milton 4064.

Performance Dates: - 17 until 27 October 2024

Performance Times: - Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm. Matinees - SAT/SUN 2.30pm

Cost: \$25.00 per student. One free ticket for one teacher per booking of 10 students.

We look forward to seeing you at the theatre. If you have any queries, please contact us via our email robot@aimay.org or visit piptheatre.org/ai-may/

Kind regards,

Embodi Theatre in Co Production With PIP Theatre