



## **ATAR course examination, 2023**

# **DRAMA**

## **Text booklet**

## **Section One**

The Text booklet must be handed in with your Question/Answer booklet.

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**Drama text**

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*Duty Free* written by David Megarrity, was first performed on Tuesday, 9 November, 2010 in Studio L202, Kelvin Grove, Queensland University of Technology. A Playlab Theatre Publication.

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**Contextual information**

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The playwright, David Megarrity, says in his Introduction, '*Duty Free* explores "the gap year"<sup>1</sup> where some lucky young people are able to go overseas to "find themselves". These characters are drawn to Europe as their destination'.

*Duty Free* is a large cast script intended for a company of about 12 actors, with the facility for more performers.

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**Characters**

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ANNIE

BEC

EMILY

FRANKIE

LIAM

NELL

PETER

STEVIE

(All between the ages of 18–22)

Plus various actors of similar ages who play other TRAVELLERS and airport staff.

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<sup>1</sup> A break from study, usually taken between school and university.

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**Script excerpt 1: PREPARATION**

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*TRAVELLERS stand, sit or squat, their empty backpacks at the ready.*

TRAVELLER I leave tomorrow! Woot! Woot!<sup>2</sup>

TRAVELLER Should I take a hairdryer overseas?

TRAVELLER I am about to embark on the most awesome experience of my already rather awesome life.

TRAVELLER Aussie aussie aussie!

TRAVELLER Oui. Oui. Oui<sup>3</sup>. Paris and Me.

TRAVELLER Happy to kip<sup>4</sup> on your couch. See you in a fortnight!

TRAVELLER They say if you don't like the weather in Ireland, wait five minutes!

TRAVELLER I cross the globe to get to The Globe. Shakespeare's own.

TRAVELLER I look gorgeous in my passport photo – check it!

TRAVELLER My quote of the day: 'A wise man can see more from the bottom of a well than a fool can from a mountain top.'

*Other TRAVELLERS pack their luggage, which is mainly backpacks.*

ANNIE Losing your passport would be a nightmare.

NELL I found the ideal backpack. It was big, comfortable, second-hand and cheap.

PETER I'm not taking that much. I want to leave room for the stuff I might bring back.

LIAM I could save money if I went to Asia.

NELL My whole life on my shoulders, in neat compartments.

EMILY Since Year 9, not a day has gone by that we haven't seen each other. And now we're heading off into the blue together.

PETER I'm sure I can get what I need once I'm over there. No point in taking your whole wardrobe with you.

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**Script excerpt 2: SENDOFF**

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*The TRAVELLERS pick up their suitcases or put on their backpacks.  
The TRAVELLERS turn and depart in a queue.*

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<sup>2</sup> Expression used to show a person's excitement.

<sup>3</sup> Means 'yes' in French.

<sup>4</sup> Slang for 'sleep'.

**Script excerpt 3: PLANE**

*The cast perform a movement sequence evoking the start of a plane trip. Finding seats, tray tables, head rests, entertainment units. It finishes with takeoff.*

**Script excerpt 4: TRANSIT**

*The cast perform a movement sequence. Crammed into their 'seats', the cast sleep, stretch, use sleep masks, call for cabin crew. They fall asleep. Then they land, and wake.*

TRAVELLER Are we there?

TRAVELLER It's the stopover.

*A laptop opens, illuminating a TRAVELLER. He reads. Others join him, operate the keyboard and search the internet for other messages. They read. Or write.*

TRAVELLER OK. First world problems and all that, but stopovers suck.

TRAVELLER These guys can fly jetplanes, but they can't make a decent cup of coffee!

TRAVELLER Connecting flight is here. About time!

TRAVELLER The airport at Bangkok is awesome!

*The laptop snaps shut.*

*Over the remainder of the scene, we can see selected TRAVELLERS walking slowly about in the twilight that is a stopover. They carry their hand-luggage, checking it, and referencing the boarding passes they hold.*

LIAM The airport's got these massage chairs. You know, black ones, that do your legs as well, kinda feels like five children driving plastic trucks on your back.

ANNIE I'm standing there in the queue wondering when Heather's going to reply to my emails and Facebook messages.

BEC Maybe it was the lack of sleep, or something, but I feel quite affectionate towards the baggage carousels. I do.

FRANKIE The stopover was weird. I just hung around in an airport hotel. I was worried that if I went anywhere else I'd miss my flight.

NELL Instead of spending the stopover in the hotel, I went into the city. It was astounding.

STEVIE I sent a cheerful email to Mum and Dad, and updated my status intriguingly on Facebook from the internet kiosk in the foyer, caught the plane, then we were outta there. I slept for most of the stopover. Can I honestly say I've been to that country now?

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**Script excerpt 5: ARRIVAL**

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*There is a groovy, energetic choreographed sequence where the cast throw and slide luggage across and around the floor, in simulation of airport baggage carousels. Airport staff perform their duties. Travellers wander in, bleary-eyed. As each TRAVELLER collects their luggage, they come to speak.*

*A laptop opens, illuminating a TRAVELLER.*

*Others join, operate the keyboard and search the internet for other messages.*

*They read. Or write.*

TRAVELLER     Made it.

TRAVELLER     London. Awesome!

TRAVELLER     Hi Mum, Just a quick email to let you know I'm safely here. Thanks for all your help. Off to the backpackers now.

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**End of drama text**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Contextual Information & Script excerpts

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