

# Teachers Notes

## The Lies We Were Told

### INTRODUCTION

The Lies We Were Told is a play that was devised by young people aged between 11 to 18 under the direction of Natalie Rose. It is full of fun and truthful dialogue written by young people which makes it great for the classroom.

Jump in and play with the dialogue, scenes, and monologues from this play.

### SOME NOTES ON STAGING

The dialogue was written by the young people of the original production, you will see their names listed as the characters.

You can cast any gender for these 12 "characters", you do not need to stick to what you assume may be a male or female names.

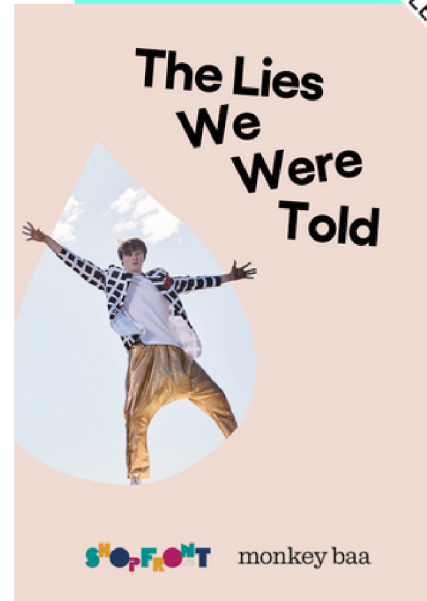
Some of the characters are non-binary too, this play was created in a safe space where this is respected. We ask you do the same too when working with this script.

At the start of each scene, you will see staging direction and a map of where the cast were onstage.

For example:

*Glitter box explodes. Front Kabuki curtain falls. All laying in beginning positions on the ground*

Sunny	Jack	Tom A
Astra		Miah
Alana		Gil
	Noam	
Megan	Tom S	Liv Tristan



You can take this as a jumping off point. It might work for you but equally you can find your own blocking and ways to stage the scenes.

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### MONOLOGUES

There is a couple of monologues or extended pieces of dialogue which could be great for students to try out:

- Megan in Year 12 (page 11)
- Tom A (page 26)
- Tristan (page 27) – you can skip the one line that interrupts this “Yes, you are an idiot” and use it as a monologue.

### THEMES AND IDEAS

The play examines the lies we were told as young people. These range from the small and banal like ice-cream, to the large and life defining like gender.

It is a rich provocation for young people to discuss.

This quote is from the program of the play. You can use it to start discussion or devising.

### SETTING

This play is great as the setting can be as simple as you need or want it to be. You can use chairs, drama blocks or steps or the blank space.

It is a good script to play with the dynamics of space, levels and proximity.



“You don't stop laughing because you grow older. You grow older because you stop laughing.” - Maurice Chevalier

We grow up being lied to. Often for good reasons - so we can believe in something magical, to believe we can be whoever we want to be, or to shield us from pain. This is about those moments. When a lie is revealed and the truth is revealed and, in that moment, something is discovered, something that will change you forever, something that cannot be unlearned. From global conspiracies to childhood memories to the most personal moments of all. This is how we grow up. This is life!

”

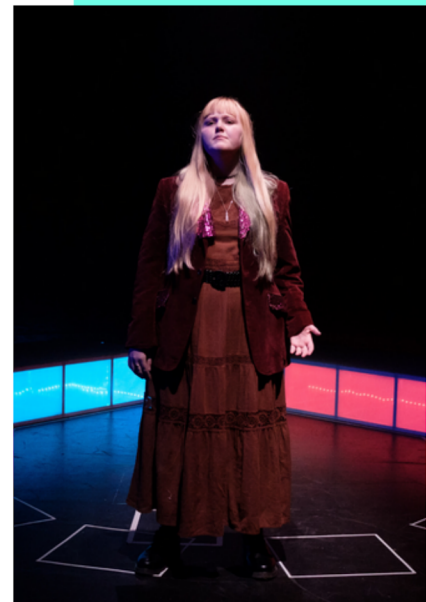
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PRIDE COLLECTION 2023

### ACTIVITIES YOU COULD TRY IN THE CLASSROOM

- Ask your students what lies they were told as kids. What can they remember? Give students time to think and write it down. You can share them in anonymous fashion if you think it is appropriate. Put them in a hat, and read them out or arrange them to build your own scene.
- This is a great script to play with interesting physical staging. You will see that many of the scenes don't occur in a naturalistic setting like a kitchen. This gives you the freedom to experiment.
- Try delivering the lines lying down and looking at the ceiling, walking around in space, whilst moving to music.
- Once you have tried this, discuss how that changed the feeling of the lines. Ask observers what changed from the outside watching it.



If you know young people who want to explore more in the world of theatre check out the following companies that were involved in this show

Shopfront Arts Co-Op  
<https://shopfront.org.au/>

Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP)  
<https://atyp.com.au/>

Monkey Baa  
<https://www.monkeybaa.com.au/>

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