



Education activities

BASED ON DAVID WILLIAMSON'S *THE CLUB*
(AN ALL-FEMALE, THREE-ACTOR VERSION)

WRITTEN RESPONSE

Write a review of this production of *The Club*, taking into account direction, acting, design elements and audience response.

For guidelines on how to write a review, see our review writing resource linked in the drop-down menu for *The Club* at statetheatrecompany.com.au/education-program.

ACTIVITY

Design a front of house experience or poster for this production of *The Club*. Think about the audience, themes and messages of the production. How might you emphasise these in your design? Come up with colours and concepts, list your ideas and sketch them out. Create a final product (a poster, model or final design sketch). Ensure everything that is included is there for a reason.

WRITTEN RESPONSE

How do the themes of *The Club* relate to the world we live in today? Connect an issue we face today with an issue explored in the play. For example:

- A move from grassroots to commercialisation – Instagram and/or YouTube moving from small users to influencers and fame
- Masculinity – Ted harassing and hitting a woman and this story's exposure in the media – the rise of #metoo

Write down your thoughts and comparisons, using examples from the play (quotes, characters, events) and from real life (news media, films, discussions with friends or family). You may be able to use quotes from Tessa Leong (director) or David Williamson (writer) to support your argument – see the study guide and other resources at statetheatrecompany.com.au/education-program for more information.

WRITTEN RESPONSE

What were the central themes of *The Club*? Identify one or two themes (e.g. power, masculinity, corruption, leadership, etc.) and explain how and where they were used in the play. Use specific examples and quotes.

WRITTEN RESPONSE & ACTIVITY

The Club focuses on a power struggle between six men involved in a Victorian football club in the 70s. Think about the power struggles that happen at your school or in your home. For example, fights over the remote control or over who sits in a particular spot at lunch time.

In a group or individually, write a scene in a satirical style that dramatises one of the power struggles you have come up with, making sure to use fictional characters and names instead of real ones. Research satire (see page 31 of the study guide for a definition) and keep this in mind when writing the scene. Remember that artistic license is allowed – you can make the characters much more over-the-top and melodramatic than real life people. Remember to write the scene in script form with characters, lines and direction.

Act out the scene with a small group, thinking about how to make it funny and communicate the message of the power struggle.

DISCUSSION OR WRITTEN RESPONSE

Do any of the characters in *The Club* have any redeeming qualities? Which character do you think is most committed to the well-being of the club? Why? Provide examples in your discussion or in a written response.

DISCUSSION OR WRITTEN RESPONSE

David Williamson said: "My original intention for *The Club* was that it was a satire of male competitive behaviour and ruthlessness when power and success were dangled before us."

What are some examples of this idea being played out within the play? How does this production of *The Club* reinforce and/or subvert this intention? Write a response or discuss in small groups or pairs, drawing on specific examples from the play.

WRITTEN RESPONSE

The Club is a uniquely Australian story and also utilises a lot of Australian language, particularly slang. Identify some examples of events and language used in the play that are uniquely Australian. Why do you think Williamson used this kind of language? Can you think of any contemporary examples of plays, TV shows, films or books that use slang language that is unique to Australia?

FURTHER ACTIVITIES

Other activities related to this production are available in the study guide and the "Things to Think About" page, both available under the drop-down menu for *The Club* at statetheatrecompany.com.au/education-program.