

- *A Mirror* is a play written by contemporary British playwright Sam Holcroft. *A Mirror* was first presented at the Almeida Theatre, London, on the 15th of August 2023.
- This production is directed by Margaret Thanos and opened at Belvoir on Wednesday 25th February 2026.
- *A Mirror* runs for approximately 1 hour and 55 minutes, with no interval.
- *A Mirror* is set in an unnamed country run by a totalitarian regime in a contemporary setting. It is implied, though not specifically stated, that this production is set in Australia.
- *A Mirror* can be described as metatheatrical, with elements of political theatre and dark comedy. The play contains multiple narratives which sit inside each other, like nested stories. At times, the production breaks the fourth wall, with the actors directly addressing the audience.
- The central characters in the play are four actors putting on an unlicensed, illegal play. The characters endow the audience in the Belvoir Upstairs Theatre as the audience at this illegal performance. The actors in this illegal performance adopt the façade of a wedding party to justify the gathering of people in the space.
- There are four central actors in *A Mirror*. The actor playing the registrar acts as the character **Mr Čelik** in the play (Yalin Ozucelik), the Director of the Ministry of Culture. The actor playing the bride, acts as the character **Mei** in the play (Rose Riley), Mr Čelik's secretary. The actor playing the best man acts as the character **Bax** in the play (Eden Falk), a decorated playwright and friend/colleague of Mr Čelik. The actor playing the groom acts as the character **Adem** in the play (Faisal Hamza) a car mechanic and amateur playwright who has submitted a play (*The Ninth Floor*) to the Ministry of Culture for approval.
- Shortly into the production, the actors drop the wedding façade and announce the commencement of a performance of a play called *A Play*. The actors exit the central playing area of the stage and quickly change costume on the edge of the stage, in low lighting. A female actor can be seen dimly in modest underwear when changing costume. Loud music underscores this transition, and all other transitions in the production.
- During the first scene of *A Play*, the characters read aloud Adem's play, *The Ninth Floor*. The scene read by the characters begins with a sex scene between a prostitute and her client. The scene is not acted out on stage - it is read aloud from copies of the script. The scene uses the line "As she rides him, close to completion, he suddenly cries out, not with ecstasy, but in pain," Mr Čelik indicates the physical action by slamming his hand on a table in a rhythmic fashion.
- This scene also includes the line, spoken disapprovingly by the character Mr Čelik: "In the course of just sixty pages we have ... prostitution, drug dealing, gambling, child neglect, an attempted suicide and a compulsive masturbator perforating his bowel with a chair leg up his rectum." This line is repeated later in the play as the characters read a transcription of their conversation.
- The play contains coarse language, including two instances of the word c*nt. In one of these instances, the word is spoken during the reading of *The Ninth Floor*.
- In a scene between Adem and Mei toward the end of the play, both actors undress to their underwear and begin to kiss before the scene is suddenly interrupted. After the interruption, the actor playing Mei breaks the fourth wall and tells the audience 'There was a short sex scene here.' The actors do not continue to perform this scene.
- The play contains references to camps and a 're-education facility' that some audience members may find distressing.
- The play contains spoken references to alcoholism, and the loss of a spouse. We see a hip flask drop out of the character Bax's pocket at one point in the play. The play also contains implications of an abuse of power in which an older senior politician presses a younger female secretary to spend time with him outside of work hours.
- The production contains the use of theatrical haze.

Schools performance tickets are not sent out beforehand, please collect your tickets from the Box Office in the foyer of the theatre upon arrival on the day.

Belvoir Education

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- The play contains a line in which the character of the Director for Public Prosecutions threatens to falsely accuse and charge a character with being a 'child molester' who has left 'a rail of traumatised little boys in his wake'. This is a false charge, used to demonstrate the lengths to which people in power will go to suppress dissent.
- During the show, scenes from two plays are acted out by characters. The characters are in an office, but the scenes they act out are set in a war zone. The scenes include references to battle, weapons, and death, including by gunshot, mines, and a slashed throat. These lines are delivered in a consciously 'acted out' manner by actors playing characters who are not actors.

The following section contains **SPOILERS**. This includes descriptions of theatrical devices deliberately used to surprise the audience, but that some students may find upsetting.

- **[SPOILER]** Approximately one hour and forty-five minutes into the production, a [theatrical] smoke bomb is rolled into the centre of the stage, and a **very loud bang** is heard along with a **very bright white flash**. All stage lights go to black. A masked man wearing tactical response gear enters the theatre auditorium carrying a powerful automatic style weapon (**gun**).
- **[SPOILER]** Four other individuals in similar tactical response gear enter the auditorium, holding torches. The torches are used to light the audience and the characters on stage. Several characters are aggressively removed the stage. Characters struggle as they are removed. Characters later appear in chains and handcuffs.
- **[SPOILER]** Shortly after one character is dragged offstage, a **very loud gunshot** is heard, along with a flash of light. The implication is clearly that the character has been shot dead.
- **[SPOILER]** Toward the end of the play, a character appears with bloodied bandages wrapped around his hands and refers to his hands as being broken as a result of being slammed into a cell door.
- **[SPOILER]** A high-status character speaks directly to the audience, asking them to produce their identify cards and informing them they are likely to spend the night in a prison cell.
- Please ensure **all mobile phones are turned off** completely, **refrain from eating in the theatre**, and **avoid taking notes during the performance**. Students should understand that the performance is live and that the actors can see and hear them in the audience.
- Dedicated 11:30 AM Schools Performances are followed by a **Q&A session with the cast**, where students can ask questions about the production.

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