

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT OF THE MIDDLE CLASSES

by Hannah Moscovitch



Education Mini-Pack

6 MARCH — 1 APRIL 2021

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

About the Play

Jon is a prize-winning novelist who wants more out of life. His third marriage is going about as well as his first two, and he's stuck at university teaching creative writing to lazy undergraduates. He's a good teacher, but he believes there's really only one student worth his time. Annie is clever, imaginative, and a huge fan of Jon's work. One afternoon, Jon catches himself admiring Annie in her red coat, and soon it feels like their affair was destined from the start. But when the embers have cooled and the affair is over, who will control their narrative?

About the Playwright

Hannah Moscovitch is an acclaimed Canadian playwright, TV writer and librettist whose work has been widely produced in Canada as well as around the world. Hannah has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Trillium Book Award, the Nova Scotia Masterworks Award, both The Scotsman Fringe First and The Herald Angel Award at the Edinburgh Festival, and the prestigious Windham-Campbell Prize administered by Yale University. She has been nominated for the international Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, New York City's Drama Desk Award, as well as Canada's Siminovitch Prize and Governor General's Award (twice each). Past stage work includes her theatre-rock concert hybrid *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*, co-created with Christian Barry and Ben Caplan, which has been touring internationally since 2017, and won the 2019 BankSA Adelaide Fringe Pick in Australia. Hannah is a Playwright-in-Residence at Toronto's Tarragon Theatre

Cast

Jon Dan Spielman

Annie Izabella Yena

Creative Team

Director Petra Kalive

Set & Costume Designer Marg Horwell

Lighting Designer Rachel Burke

Composer & Sound Designer Darius Kedros

Assistant Director Isabella Vadiveloo

Intimacy Coordinator Michala Banas

Movement Consultant Xanthe Beesley

Annie (Standby Cover) Myfanwy Hocking

Jon (Standby Cover) Liam Maguire

Stage Manager Lisette Drew

Assistant Stage Manager Julia Smith

Genre

Contemporary drama

Running Time

Approximately 75min without an interval

Attendance Information

This production contains frequent coarse language, sexual references, mature themes and the use of theatrical haze. For detailed information, please visit mtc.com.au/production-content-guide.



Turn the page for activities, and discussions.

Before the show



Think about the title of the play and make predictions about the story, then read the About the Play section overleaf. Discuss the question: who will control their narrative?

Research the play *Oleanna* by David Mamet. Compare the play's synopsis to what you know about this production.



Download the **show programme** and read about the creative team who worked on this production. Research the roles of Intimacy Coordinator and Movement Consultant and think about what they might do in rehearsal.

Read the article **Ripped from the Headlines** on the MTC website, then investigate what is happening in the real world that might resonate with the themes of this play, including the #MeToo movement.

Read the article **A Moving Performance** on the MTC website and make notes about the movement language you might see in this production.



Watch the **video trailer** and make predictions about how the production. Discuss design elements, themes, characters, mood.

Post-show Activities

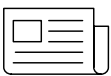


Discuss the use of direct address in the play. How did the actor use their expressive skills to switch between direct address and dialogue with the other character?

Discuss the ending of the play. What is the overall feeling you're left with? Write your own epilogue to the play that explores what happens next for Annie and Jon.

Recall some moments from the play that resonated with you, made you laugh, or that you didn't like. Have other people in the class chosen the same moments?

Revisit the **video trailer** to jog your memory of the set design. Discuss how the actors used the space, and identify the entrances and exits, and symbolism in the design.



Read director Petra Kalive's article **Balance of Power** on the MTC website and discuss how power was explored in the production.



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MTC Education

Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the Yalukit Willam Peoples of the Boon Wurrung, the First Peoples of Country on which Southbank Theatre and MTC HQ stand. We pay our respects to all of Melbourne's First Peoples, to their ancestors and Elders, and to our shared future.

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