

Gillian from *Dags* by Debra Oswald (Comedy – Female)

Gillian is an insecure teenager who is ashamed of her looks. She begins the scene with a bag over her head, with eyeholes cut out.

I guess you're all wondering why I've got this paper bag on my head. It's cos I'm ugly. Hideous. A whole lot of you are probably thinking 'The paper bag's a pretty melodramatic stunt.' And that's true, I s'pose. I'm a pretty melodramatic sort of person. But that doesn't mean I'm not ugly too.

(Removes the bag from her head)

I thought it'd be okay if I cut out these eyeholes. But I didn't account for the noise problem. The paper crackles when I breathe in and out. Oh well...

I felt so crummy this morning I couldn't face going to school. Full-scale ack-attack – face like a box of popcorn.

Mum said I had to go to school. *(Mimicking mum)* 'Don't be ridiculous, Gillian. No one's impressed by your drama queen performance.'

Poor old Mum. It's not her fault I'm such a hopeless case. She sighs a lot and looks worried. She's a very tired person basically. I would be too if I worked as hard as she does and had to be married to Dad. I used to try and talk over my problems with Mum, but the more I told her about how crazy and miserable I feel, the more worried she'd look.

Oh Mum... what am I going to do...I'm so fat and ugly.

(Mimicking Mum) 'If you're so convinced you're ugly, you'll just have to develop a lovely personality to make up for it, won't you.'

Good one, Mum!

Erica from *What's Right for Me?* By Joanna Hempel (Drama – Female)

Erica's parents have recently divorced and she is given the choice of which parent to live with. She has finally made a decision and is revealing it to her mother.

Erica:

Mum...you know how you said I have to do what's right for me? You remember? And I'm trying to understand what that means. I think it means that I should look after my interests, even if that means that someone else's interests have to come second. *(Pause)* Well, I've decided... I've decided that, while I hate your shop, I'm going to blame it for the divorce. I don't blame you for that, I understand. At least, I try to understand... But it just won't work. I'll be miserable, and you'll be miserable. Dad would be on his own and miserable. You and I would be miserable together...we'll all be miserable! Mum, I have decided that I have to do what I believe is right, for me. I have to do what I would want you to do. And that is: go with Dad. I have to go with Dad, because that is what I believe you should be doing. That is what I think you should be doing, Mum. I don't know what it is inside me that's telling me that. Sarah and I talked about it and I think it's something to do with...not wanting to grow up hating men. And I know that's what is right, Mum. It's right at this stage, for me. I do want to grow up and get married one day. Just like you. And have a family. And I wouldn't want to break up my family. So, I'm going to go to Perth. This won't be my home once Dad is gone. My heart won't be here when Dad is gone.

The Swagman from *Clown from Snowy River* by Boyle and Liz Skitch (Comedy – Male or Female)

The Swagman is introducing himself to the crowd and trying to explain that he will be playing all of the roles in the play. He is loud and jolly and a bit of a joker.

Swagman:

Well, thank you everyone for coming tonight to see our new work – The Clown from Snowy River. We really are very excited about it, I have been rehearsing it with the troupe for... quite some time and it really has been a very rewarding process. We're really happy and tonight we really are very excited about sharing with you this confronting and challenging new work. It was actually my idea, the play, well, actually I wrote it.

Look, we might start by introducing ourselves and the roles that we will be playing for you tonight. Right, let's start with ME. In tonight's production I will be playing the role of the Swagman – I'll also play the role of the jolly jumbuck and the not so jolly one shall also be played by me. The Coolabah tree, well I'll play that. And the troopers, one, two and the third one, well I'll take that as well. And then in The Man from Snowy River scene I'll be playing the man from Snowy River, his horse will be played by me. I'll be playing the cliff that he rides down in the famous scene and the debris that fall from the cliff will also be played by me. *(Encourages applause from the audience)*

Thank you. *(Bows)*

Colin from *Two Weeks with the Queen* by Mary Morris (Drama – Male)

Colin's little brother has been diagnosed with Leukaemia. While he's staying with family in London, he goes to the hospital to try and convince a doctor to help his brother. It's not overly successful.

Colin:

'Scuse me buttin in... I know you're real busy here and everything, but I'd really appreciate it if you'd come to Australia and fix Luke up. They reckon he's gunna die, but I reckon they're just slack and you could fix him. We'll pay your fare. If you've got a jet of your own we'll pay the petrol. (Pause) You gotta help. Luke's got cancer; he could die! Please just listen to me for a minute... You've got to do it. It'll only take you a few days. You've got to! (The doctor continues to ignore him). You know what you are? You're the worst doctor in the world! (Pause as he tries to pull himself together.) (To himself) Alright, Colin mate, don't start blubbering. Dad wouldn't blubber. Not even the time you bowled a Glenn McGrath special off an extra-long run-up and it bounced off a cow pat and slammed him in the privates. Nothin' to blubber about. You went for the wrong doctor, that's all. Just because he looked like the world's best doctor. The real world's best doctor's probably bald with glasses. I just got to get back in there and find him.

Vicky or Lockie from Lockie Leonard: Human Torpedo by Paige Gibbs (Male and Female roles – your choice)

Lockie is new to Vicki's town and he's a bit of an awkward dork. But he's cute and he like Vicki and Vicki likes him back. They are talking in the playground after school.

VICKI: (After a long pause) What do you think about the Greenhouse Effect?

LOCKIE: Dunno – I reckon it's lousy.

VICKI: You have no idea, do you?

(He is lost staring at her)

Lockie?

LOCKIE: Eh?

VICKI: Don't you have any ideas or opinions?

LOCKIE: Probably not.

VICKI: Did you know that Australia is being stuffed up the most by the hole in the ozone layer? We put out less CFC's and we get the hole!

Lockie, did you know that?

LOCKIE: *(Shrugging)* We haven't done it in Science yet.

VICKI: Science! Lockie, don't you ever read the papers? Boy! You're useless!

LOCKIE: Yeah, I'm a bit useless. *(Pause)* Vicki, do you want kids?

VICKI: Back off!

LOCKIE: I didn't mean now.

VICKI: Phew, I hope not.

LOCKIE: It was just a hypodermical question.

VICKI: Hypodermical? Hypodermical! Geez, Lockie, you're a dag.

LOCKIE: Well?

VICKI: Well what?

LOCKIE: Are you going to have kids? When you get married?

VICKI: Married? Who said I was ever going to get married?

LOCKIE: No one, I was just...

VICKI: Marriage is a decayed and rotten institution.

LOCKIE: Are your Mum and Dad happy?

VICKI: With each other? They fight like animals, worse than animals – like politicians. They hate each other. The only thing that keeps them together is money.

LOCKIE: That figures.

VICKI: What figures?

LOCKIE: You and getting married. People whose oldies fight always say marriage sucks. People whose oldies are happy don't worry so much.

VICKI: Where'd you read that?

LOCKIE: Nowhere – I just thought of it. I bet you're the kind of person who's not going to have kids 'cause they don't want to bring them into a world like this.

VICKI: Got it in one.

LOCKIE: What do your oldies do?

VICKI: Business. They sell cars. 'Streetons for Fords. Streets Ahead.'

LOCKIE: Yuck! I think advertising people are the lowest form of life.

VICKI: Wrong. Cars salesmen.

LOCKIE: You don't sound like the happiest person in the world.

VICKI: No, but I'm the nicest.

LOCKIE: You're alright.

VICKI: Don't overdo it, Leonard! I'm late for ballet! Bye!

LOCKIE: Ballet! *(To himself)* You're out of your depth.