

First Production Details

The Chapel, the Fire and the Dead Cat was the winner of the ATYP Foundation Commission (cast aged 14-17 years) in 2019. It was due to be premiered by ATYP at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts on October 6, 2021. It was postponed due to Covid-19.

DIRECTOR	Rachel Chant
DRAMATURG	Jane FitzGerald
DESIGNER	Judith Hoddinott
CAST	
LULU	Eadie May
PIM	Lucy De Hosson
RASHIDA	Seyna Catzel
ALEX	Scarlett Saunders
SAM	Jacob Drew
BEN	Hendrix George
BLOCKER	Marianne Hanna
BRODEN	Jasper Whittet
WOMBAT	Jasper Reucassel
SARAH	Carmen Rolfe
KYLE	Charlie White



Notes

Characters

LULU (F)

PIM (F)

RASHIDA (F)

ALEX (F)

SAM (F)

BEN (M)

BLOCKER (M)

BRODEN (M)

WOMBAT (M)

SARAH (F)

KYLE (M)

Notes on character

LULU, PIM and RASHIDA are best friends forever and have an inclination towards the dark arts, spells and summoning.

SAM and ALEX are siblings and rarely find themselves in trouble.

KYLE and SARAH have been together for a year.

WOMBAT likes to keep to himself. He can usually be found in a dark corner drawing in a large artbook.

BEN, BLOCKER and BRODEN are never not seen together. They all have the same shoes and hope to be viral sensations – they'll do anything to make that happen.

The gender of ALEX, SAM and the B-BOYS can be changed to suit the needs of the cast. You may change names and pronouns as needed. However, KYLE and WOMBAT need to be male identifying. The WITCHES and SARAH need to be female identifying.

Setting

Night time.

The four main locations:

THE CHAPEL

An old-fashioned wooden hall, with arched stained-glass windows and a bell tower sits atop a hill. It is overgrown and stands amongst shrubs. If it wasn't so creepy it would be beautiful. Like a ruin, that's not quite ruined yet. Trees poke through gaps in the buckled floor boards, vines climb through walls. Abandoned pews, candleholders, dusty cloths and some silver goblets are left where they stood.

The spaces surrounding the Chapel:

THE GRAVEYARD

Old and dilapidated. The headstones are weathered and scattered unevenly in the space. Leaves litter the ground. Perfectly lit by the full moon.

THE COURTYARD

A single lamp post flickers in the night. It stands next to a bench that is almost overgrown by vines. There are a few statues, including a particularly creepy statue of a possum.

THE BUSHLAND

The bush behind the graveyard. It is lined by tall gumtrees. Close to everything, and yet still hidden.

Notes

Rules of the Space — The groups can be quite close to each other but unable to hear or see each other. The space should have an overgrown, maze-like quality. There are pockets of areas.

Phillip the Cat — Phillip should never be seen or created literally. Instead, he should be depicted through sound, lighting and shadow. He is always a suggestion, an ethereal spectre.



The Chapel, the Fire and the Dead Cat

PRELUDE

The Chapel is on fire.

We open on a dark and foggy night. The sky is stained orange and smoke fills the air. There is the sound of fire crackling followed by the sound of sirens getting louder. The shadow of flames grow bigger. We slowly see the backs of eleven silhouetted teenagers. Everything builds to a crescendo and then —

SCENE 1

An Interrogation Room.

Harsh fluorescent light.

Everyone is in separate rooms.

KYLE and WOMBAT both have the beginnings of a black eye.

RASHIDA I was at home.

PIM Helping mum with dinner.

BEN In my room.

BLOCKER Eating a kebab.

LULU On a walk.

WOMBAT By myself.

SARAH Do I have to answer or ... ?

SAM Not really a choice.

ALEX Right.

KYLE Who wants to know?

ALEX I was studying.

BRODEN No comment.

BEN I was editing.

BRODEN No comment.

PIM Did I mention I had my period?

BRODEN No comment!

RASHIDA And then I did some knitting to de-stress.

SAM We're in the middle of assessments.

BLOCKER It was a great kebab.

ALEX Overlapping assessments.

KYLE What's it to you?

LULU It was a full moon so —

WOMBAT I decided to get out of the house.

BLOCKER Innocent until proven guilty, right?

BRODEN I think I should wait for my lawyer.

SAM I beg your pardon?

PIM Can you say that again?