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## Hearing Voices

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# **HEARING VOICES**

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Written submission in partial fulfilment of the requirements  
For the award of the degree  
MASTER OF CREATIVE ARTS – RESEARCH

From

THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

CERTIFICATION

I, Linda M Nicholls-Gidley, declare that this thesis, submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Master of Creative Arts - Research, in the School of Music and Drama, University of Wollongong, is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. The document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

Linda M Nicholls-Gidley

9 September 2005

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**Abstract**

Hearing Voices is a dramatic work intended to explore the use of the Received Pronunciation accent by Australian actors in productions of theatrical classics, particularly Shakespeare, in Australia. It attempts to aurally document the standard accent used in Australian performances of the classics and demonstrate how this accent has changed over the duration of 60 years.

Hearing Voices intersperses voice over and video with live performance to aurally and visually document the life and work of an Australian Actor/Manager in the Australian theatre from the 1940s to the current day. The text draws extensively on the experiences of John Bell and his contemporaries; a group recognised for its contribution to the transformation of the Australian theatre in the 1960s and 70s.

**Acknowledgements:**

While *Hearing Voices* is essentially a work of fiction I acknowledge that I have drawn heavily from the following sources:

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