

Outback Odyssey

A stage adaptation opportunity based on the novel by Paul Rushworth-Brown

A silhouette of a person with curly hair, wearing a long-sleeved shirt and trousers, stands with their back to the camera, looking out over a vast, flat landscape. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The horizon is low and flat, with some distant hills visible. The foreground is dark and textured, possibly with low-lying vegetation.

He came to Australia looking for a place to belong.
What he found would change the way he saw the
world and himself.



The real Jimmy Brown and Suraj aboard RMS Orion en route to Australia. Family photograph.



Sheep being mustered on an Australian station.



Jarrah, an Aboriginal Elder, and Dhirrari, a young stockman. Fictional character visualisation.

At seventeen, Jimmy Brown left Britain for Australia through the Big Brother Movement. His journey into an unfamiliar country became the inspiration for *Outback Odyssey*, a story of migration, isolation and encounters that challenge everything a young man thought he knew about belonging, identity and the country he hoped to call home.



THE PLAY

1950s Australia. Seventeen-year-old Jimmy Brown travels from Yorkshire in search of a new life and somewhere to belong. Sent to an isolated sheep station, he enters a world whose rules, history and relationships challenge everything he has inherited.

Through Jarrah and Dhirrari, his growing relationship with Amanda, and the dangerous search for Wiberg's Gold, Jimmy is forced to decide what kind of man he wants to become.

An intimate historical drama with mystery, conflict and a powerful journey from outsider to belonging.

CHARACTERS & ENSEMBLE



WHY THIS STORY, NOW?

Outback Odyssey is set in 1950s Australia, but its central question is timeless: What happens when the beliefs we inherit collide with the people we actually meet? Jimmy's journey holds up a mirror to prejudice, belonging and identity, not by telling us what to think, but by showing what can happen when we are willing to listen. That conversation is already beginning with readers.

RICH BOOKS

Australia's To Kill a Mockingbird Why 'Outback Odyssey' Is Sparking Conversations

'Outback Odyssey' echoes 'To Kill a Mockingbird' in Australia, a First Nations historical fiction that probes prejudice and identity for book club

Marina Nani
Editor-in-Chief

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Courtesy of the Guardian Newspaper



RMS Orion: the journey and Jimmy's old world disappearing behind him. This gives us the one significant contained period location.



The station: the primary production base and the heart of the story. Homestead, yards, shearing shed, windmill and surrounding Country can all live within the same location footprint.



The cave: the intimate, mysterious location. Visually completely different from the open station landscape but still contained.

THEATRE OPPORTUNITY
The story is contained and producible: one station, one cave, the surrounding outback, with the RMS Orion establishing Jimmy's journey to Australia.

COUNTRY, PERSPECTIVE & RESPONSIBILITY

“Outback Odyssey” is not a story about discovering a culture. It is about the moment a young man begins to understand the cost of the one he inherited.

Told from an outsider’s perspective, the story openly owns that position. It does not attempt to speak for or interpret First Nations experience. Through Jarrah, Dhirrari and Ngarra, Jimmy’s understanding of Country, belonging and the assumptions he brought with him are challenged.

The focus remains on Jimmy’s response: whether he listens, whether he changes, and ultimately where he chooses to stand.

The story favours accountability over easy redemption, allowing silence, consequence and discomfort to remain.

Research informing the First Nations elements drew on historical and anthropological texts available in the public domain. Any stage adaptation would be developed with appropriate First Nations cultural consultation to ensure cultural detail, language and representation are approached with care and accuracy.

Belonging begins with listening.



OUTBACK ODYSSEY

Some journeys take you across the world.
The important ones change who you are.

Paul Rushworth-Brown
Author & Screenwriter

Screenplay completed and available for
consideration

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