



Plays of the 50s: Volume 2 (Paperback)

By -

Currency Press Pty Ltd, Australia, 2004. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The exhilaration caused by the success in 1955 of Ray Lawler's Summer of the Seventeenth Doll galvanised a host of new playwrights. Among them was Barbara Vernon, whose *The Multi-Coloured Umbrella* (1957), a drama of the racetrack, exploits the novelty of an irredeemably Australian way of life. Peter Kenna in his comedy-drama *The Slaughter of Saint Teresa's Day* (1959), introduces the first of his Irish-Australian matriarchs, Oola Maguire. In *Image in the Clay* (1960) David Ireland blends realism and poetry in his stark portrait of a rural Aboriginal family. And, most radically, Ray Matthew in *The Life of the Party* (1960) draws a desperate portrait of post-war sophisticates trapped in the shadow of the Cold War. Exploring a new theatre distances from European realism, these plays mark a journey towards a recognisably Australian rhythmic form and a more poetic, visceral drama characteristic of the theatre later in the century.

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