Drama – rationale guide

For your individual project write a short rationale clearly explaining the intention of your project and the approach that you have taken to developing it. Answer the questions below that relate best to your chosen project.

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| Suggested structure | Ask yourself some of these questions when writing your rationale | For example |
| A sentence that clearly explains the overall directorial concept/vision or intention of the project. | * What dramatic meaning do you want to communicate? * What should your audience understand, imagine, visualise, or examine in response to your project? * What did you set out to achieve or create? * Where/how did your idea begin? | My set design for ‘Ruby Moon’ emphasises the endlessly recycled stories told by Sylvie and Ray by using brown paper and circular motifs to make the audience question notions of time and truth in Cameron’s play. |
| A paragraph explaining significant moments, ideas, images, techniques, approaches, demands and/or stylistic conventions you have chosen to explore. | * What themes or ideas does your work explore? * What significant conventions of the style or form did you consider? * How have you dealt with the specific demands of the text/project? * What has influenced your work? * What important techniques or approaches have you explored in developing the work? * What important moment/image/quote most clearly expresses your intention/concept? | In my imagined production of this gothic tale, the set distorts time through the absence of straight lines and boundaries. I also used brown paper to construct the set, mirroring the mysterious packages that arrive at Flaming Tree Grove. |
| A sentence explaining significant elements of drama and/or design you chose to manipulate, highlight, analyse and/or explore in developing and expressing your concept/intention. | * How have you controlled the elements of drama? * How have you used dramatic tension to engage the audience in the visual, written or performance choices you have made? * How and why have you used structure, colour, shape, symbol, atmosphere, space, or language in your work to create dramatic meaning? * What significant challenges did you face in achieving your intention? * What do you think is most successful about your project (process or product)? | The looming scale of the red wingback chair (centre stage) and a shadowy puppet theatre (up stage) heighten the childish behaviour of the two adult characters as they play out their stories of guilt and paranoia. |
| A sentence reflecting on the intended audience response to the work or the realisation of your intention/concept. | * How do you want your audience to respond to the work? * Is there anything that you need to clarify/explain/emphasise about the realisation of your intention/concept? * Was there something that surprised you about the process or the final project? | I intend to leave the audience wondering if the little girl really existed at all or if she is simply a manifestation of Roy and Sylvie’s broken relationship. |

# Sample rationale for set design

My set design for ‘Ruby Moon’ emphasises the endlessly recycled stories told by Sylvie and Ray by using brown paper and circular motifs to make the audience question notions of time and truth in Cameron’s play. In my imagined production of this gothic tale, the set distorts time through the absence of straight lines and boundaries. I also used brown paper to construct the set, mirroring the mysterious packages that arrive at Flaming Tree Grove. The looming scale of the red wingback chair (centre stage) and a shadowy puppet theatre (up stage) heighten the childish behaviour of the two adult characters as they play out their stories of guilt and paranoia. I intend to leave the audience wondering if the little girl really existed at all or if she is simply a manifestation of Roy and Sylvie’s broken relationship.