Picnic at Hanging Rock

Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh

Signed show, - Sign Language person to side of stage, in a clear position that everyone can see her, although not interfering with the show.

Cast of 5 girls playing all parts, multi accented, Australian, English, French. Playing Male/Female roles, teachers, students, police.

Sound – Haunting melodies, sets feeling and mood.

Set design – Wood panelling made to look like an enclosed trapped room. Thatched wood above stage set.

Costume – Australian school uniform, blazer, skirt, hat(fairly modern era).

Scene 1

background sounds, birds, midway musical cue, faint, flute music, quiet in volume.

Lighting set to give silhouettes against walls. Haunting in style to match the speech.

As actors move slowly, a step every few minutes nearer to the front, tension rises as they describe the missing person.

Atmospheric sound to build tension.

Scene 2

Lights out – used for set dressing, scene changes. In complete darkness, makes for interesting thought how they managed to achieve this (IR Goggles?)

Scene 3 – x

Scene 4

Sound, outdoors, walking in brush, haunting music to add tension. Crickets can be heard. 1 actor walks with a musical shaker.

Scene ends with creepy laughing, music and fireworks, transition scenes, actors move but only while lights are off and move into new positions for around 5 set pieces.

Scene 5 – x

Scene 6

Transition costume change, 1 actor now in a fine gentleman's suit.

Sound – distant violin.

7

Lighting, used to create dimension to stage room, lighting used to hide prop movement, lights off to add/remove.

Create a horror tension, scary scene, girl in white bloody dress.

Transition, 2nd actor in suite, a mirror of original actor, like a split personality.

8

On stage, lights out completely, actors have torches, setting a scene of a bush search at night for the missing person. Lights back on, the girl from the earlier scene with the white dress with blood on it returns screaming and running at them.

11

Lighting, set to dim level, focused on actors, scene around a fire and all holding hands.

12

New scene introduces new costume, finely dressed lady, late 1800's to early 1900 period dress.

Tea in garden scene be presence and feel. Music changes towards the end to eerie, uncomfortable.

Issue noticed during the play, relating to sound. Lapel mics very sensitive, clipping during loud scenes, with a lot of distortion, possible lack of compressors to maintain and control the sound levels.