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Deception River

by Peta Tait and directed by Amanda McCraven

In 'Deception River' it is a morning in 1962, and Robert is climbing on to a high ledge overlooking the mountains in the area of Arthur's Pass only to discover a younger man, Chris, up there. Robert assumes that Chris is also hunting deer but as the play unfolds, Chris reveals that he is there only with a camera. 'Deception River' explores human-animal relations with intersecting poetic and realistic expressions to capture three differing perspectives. The first voice offers a poetic evocation of landscape and alludes to the sensory experience of animals moving through the landscape. The two male characters also love this natural world but contrast pragmatic and idealist approaches to animals living there.

Peta Tait is Professor of Theatre and Drama at La Trobe University, Australia. Her recent scripts include the co-written 'Breath by Breath' about nineteenth-century asylum seekers, produced in 2003 and published in Profiling 25 New Scripts from The Australian Script Centre (2004). During the 1990s she was the writer with Sydney-based The Party Line on 'Appearing in Pieces' (1993), the award-winning '700 Positions' (1996), and 'Whet Flesh' (1997). Her recent books include a history of trapeze, 'Circus Bodies: Cultural Identity in Aerial Performance' (London Routledge, 2005) and 'Performing Emotions: Gender, Bodies, Spaces' (Aldershot: Ashgate 2002). She is co editor with Elizabeth Schafer of 'Australian Women's Drama' (2000), and editor of 'Body Show/s: Australian Viewings of Live Performance' (2000).

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