

*History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.*

Cicero

*'Performances function as vital acts of transfer, transmitting social knowledge, memory, and a sense of identity though the reiterated...'*

Diana Taylor, *The Archive and the Repertoire; performing cultural memory in the Americas*

Theatre is a wonderful barometer of a society and tells many stories about its citizens, its rituals and its history. But many of these stories can get 'lost' in the shuffle of time.

One of John McCallum's aims in his book ***Belonging, Australian Playwriting in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century***, was to bring to attention the 'lost' repertoire of our theatre; sometimes these were plays that stretched the theatrical vocabulary of their time and were never well produced; others were more successful, but were forgotten as the theatre moved on. And while John focused on published works, he also noticed works that should have been published and weren't.

John's research has resulted in the publication of *Damage*, a collection of plays by John Romeril which recognises and applauds a canon of work by one of Australia's major playwrights. How many more 'canons' might be out there? Join us for a discussion on remembering, recognising and rejoicing in our theatrical repertoire.