

End of Summer Time by Roger Hall

Audio Description Preshow notes

Performance/Character(s)

Andrew Grainger is 6'2 ft, English, with a broad, stocky build in his mid to late 60s with silvering hair. With blue eyes and a strong nose, he plays Dickie and all the other characters that Dickie interacts with in the play, shifting seamlessly with a change in facial and body posture, and costume adjustments. These characters include Glenda, his wife, Stephanie and Fergus, neighbours on the body corporate of his apartment block, and a few others, but these three are the ones we hear from the most. He addresses the audience directly when speaking and as he is moving about in his apartment. Dickie moves towards the fridge often where he grabs a snack or beverage. When Dickie heads out of the apartment to another locale, sometimes he walks around the floor in a large anti clockwise motion ending with him centre stage looking out to the audience accompanied by a lighting change. Other times he takes a few steps and is in his new locale.

Andrew also mimes certain actions such as driving, where he sits on a stool facing out, and his hands mime holding a steering wheel which he turns left and right. He also mimes swimming at the beach, where he partly lays on top of stool and swims or paddles with his upper body and arms.

Costume

Dickie wears a black singlet with a tan plaid shirt with a dark brown collar, with the buttons undone and the sleeves rolled up to his elbows. He wears khaki coloured pants and khaki shoes with white soles. When playing other characters, Andrew adjusts his posture and voice, as well as his shirt to depict the character. He also dons glasses for certain characters.

Set and props

In the open lounge of an apartment, a large white wall at the back holds a large tv dominating the middle with a scone light on the top left. Two partial corrugated walls bookend each side of the apartment with the left wall curving into the centre and the right wall at a 90 degree angle. On the right is the kitchen, which has a small island bench with a sink and bench against the side wall, which has a microwave on it. Behind the right wall is a sliver fridge tucked into the corner, with only the fridge door being visible when it is opened.

At the kitchen island are two tall stools with round white seats and metal legs. An *All Black* shirt hangs in a white frame on the back kitchen wall below a scone light. A floating shelf on the wall above the kitchen bench holds three pot plants in white vases. On the bench by the microwave, sits a coffee cup and a spray bottle.

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On the left behind the curved wall is what you would call the front corridor, where Dickie first enters in from and greets people at the door, which is not visible to the audience.

In front of the curved corrugated wall is a cream coloured reclining armchair with a rugby ball in the seat. To the left of the chair is steel trolley which holds a portable landline phone and a box of chocolates. Behind the trolley is a slim standing lamp which hangs above the trolley.

The arm chair also serves as a bed which Dickie pulls out into its full length which he reclines on.

There is a large empty floor space between the kitchen and the arm chair that Dickie moves about in throughout the show.

Lighting and Projection

When Dickie travels “outside” his apartment, the lighting changes in colour or brightness signalling a change in location while the rest of the set interior remains the same. This also includes the TV projections changing to reflect the location with an image or a colour.

For example, when at Takapuna beach, the room turns a blue hue as well as the TV. This also occurs when Dickie heads to the library, where the room takes on a brown hue. When Dickie is driving, he sits on a stool and the back wall and TV take on a deep blue. When in the civic car park, the stage darkens with Dickie in a soft warm glow.

At the beginning, the TV depicts images of the All Blacks playing a match & scoring triumphantly. A still image of an All Black mid-air as they score a try fills the screen , like a large portrait when we are in the apartment.

As the location changes are quick, you will hear me say “Lights back in the apartment” or similar to let you know that Dickie is back in his home.