

## The Dressmaker – Review

A **huge** success in Australia, Jocelyn Moorhouse’s adaptation of Rosalie Ham’s 2000 novel is a **bewildering**, genre-defying **treat**; a small-town **revenge** story that boasts several **stellar** performances, not least Kate Winslet’s in the titular role.

Winslet plays Myrtle “Tilly” Dunnage. As a child in 1926, she was the only **witness** to the mysterious **death** of fellow youngster Stewart Pettyman, and, following the tragedy, is labelled a murderer. Her life takes her to Paris, where she learns the fine art of **dressmaking**, but *The Dressmaker* catches up with her as she returns to her **outback** hometown of Dungatar in order to **unlock** the repressed **memories** surrounding that traumatic **childhood** incident.



Dungatar, however, proves to be a thoroughly unwelcoming, **hostile** place, populated by an **array** of oddballs, from her **severe** mother “Mad” Molly Dunnage (a superb Judy Davis) to Farrat (Hugo Weaving), a kindly police officer whose interest in the fine **fabrics** and colours Myrtle introduces to the town cannot be understated. Liam Hemsworth plays **handsome** Teddy McSwiney, while Sarah Snook is Gertrude Pratt, another who benefits from Myrtle’s **uncanny** ability to “transform” people - in this case from a plain shop **attendant** to the belle of the ball.

*The Dressmaker* is a **dark** yet vibrant picture; one that increases in intensity as it heads towards its theatrical finale. Highly recommended.