

Early in 1968, Brian came back to Sydney to direct "Fortune and Men's Eyes" at the Ensemble as well as "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" and two other plays at the Old Tote. In the meantime, he also set up an acting school where he taught many actors, including Athol Compton.

During 1969, Brian Syron held some acting classes for Aboriginal people at the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs. He is still interested in helping to create a black theatre in Sydney and will be willing to train Aboriginal people who are interested in becoming professional actors.

---

## Loneliness

"Don't put me in a home," she said, as soon as she came close to me. I had spotted her in a back lane at Redfern. She had just spoken to a strange woman . . . about nothing, really. She'd just wanted to talk to someone, but the woman brushed her off, so I went over to see if she was alright. I must have looked official like, because that's when she said "Don't put me in a home!"

She started to sob a little bit, so I put my arm around her to steady her. "It's alright, I'm not someone who puts people in homes," I said. "Why are you so afraid?"

Now her mood changed. "I'm not afraid. Because I'm not going back to that home, anyhow. I just won't go. I'm feeling very lonely now, but I can't go back to that home, seeing all those old ladies crying all the time. Ugh, it's horrible."

"I live with my daughter now. But she works and I still get lonely in the day. There's nobody to talk to. . . ."

It turned out that I was talking to Mrs Daisy Robinson, 95, who comes from Singleton. She *was* lonely when I met her, and she *was* genuinely upset. But she is not really too badly off. Whatever the reason, she had spent a brief period in some kind of a rest-home. She had hated it, so her daughter had taken her into her home, as Kuris will. During the day, when her daughter works, Mrs Robinson can visit another daughter around the corner and talk to her. All in all, compared with how some people live, she is not too badly off.

Why then, is she so lonely? Because she is an Aboriginal. A child of nature. A person who is used to having many relations around her all the time. During our talk, she said to me: "I miss the bush. The bush life was more contented. Our people used to go out together like one big family. Most of this is gone, now. Our people are more alone, now. They seem to have forgotten how to be all together, how to be happy."



*Mrs Daisy Robinson*