



## STAR-CROSSED RIVERS RESPONSE

*Cieon Hylton*

The space is set with terracotta clay vessels. We sit and gaze out over the Brisbane River and soon hear the sounds of bells coming from behind our left shoulders. Black clad bodies softly step with bare feet and assemble in place. Rhythmic tapping commences and the disparate unities of bodies— performers, picnickers, families, and audience members—become conjoined together to witness this ritualistic storytelling.

Water pouring  
is an offering.  
Love ebbs  
as it flows  
horizontally and  
vertically.

Water molecules  
Shiver in earthenware receptacles.  
They reflect each other and  
break apart,  
as sometimes lovers do...

They walk away  
and we break away,  
but fall apart just a little closer too.

The tapping is happening on these containers by two seated members while the rest of the performers give offerings of water into the vessels. Mirrors are held up and moved circularly around their bodies in time to the rhythm. The container is then carried to the riverbank and poured into the water, and their story becomes connected with the larger source of our universal memory; anything disparate becomes connected. The performers then walk softly away out of the space. The sun sets and noise gradually enters the park again, but not as before. The space has been changed and the air has been cleared through a story told symbolically through movement and sound.