



# DRAMA NEW SOUTH WALES

**ALBURY**

**Albury High School**

Conference at a glance

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**8:30** Registration, Tea & Coffee

**9:00** Live stream

- **Acknowledgement of Country**
- **Welcome from Drama NSW President, Sonia Byrnes and Conference Co-convenors, Rhéma Tieu and Hannah Bamford**
- **Keynote – *Raise your voice, A conversation between Shari Sebbens and Jessica Arthur***
- **Awards**

**10:30** Morning Tea

**11:00 Workshop #1** *'Theatre-making on paper': How to teach your students to have the most fun possible in the 90 minute written exam with Belinda Farr-Jones*

Do you wish you could find a way to increase the enjoyment of teaching writing? Do you wonder if there are any tricks to enable your students to embed context and research rather than have them slap what they know down on the page like a sack of potatoes? With our incredibly packed curriculum, there is simply no time for theory lessons. The word 'theory' excites very few of us and in isolation I believe these lessons are a waste of time for most of our students across the state. We all know that the best theatre is made in the classroom when students find their voices and own the choices they make, but many students lose this sense of ownership when they open an exam booklet.

In this workshop, I hope to share a fool-proof way to enhance the way your students write about the way they make theatre. I'll use examples from Australian and Significant plays of the 20th Century topics, but I feel certain that my method can be adapted to any question on the HSC paper. Please come prepared to act a little, play a little and celebrate our success stories. I'll squeeze in some Frantic Assembly style warm-ups and promise to share my insight on watching student's find their own voices and their writing improve across two decades.

*Belinda Farr-Jones has taught Drama across three continents for 25 years. She has had the privilege of working with industry professionals as Director on scores of productions; been a tutor for Belvoir's enrichment program for 15 years and has led many teachers through her work with NESAs.*

*She thoroughly believes that our subject has the ability to change lives and give young people complete ownership of their work. There are few Drama teachers in NSW that have read as many HSC essays as Belinda and she is determined to find creative ways to excite Drama students to write with an authentic and empowered voice.*

*For most of her career she has found herself teaching in well-resourced Independent Schools whilst promising her friends and colleagues she would return one day to teach in the public sector. She began her new role as Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts at Turrumurra High School this January.*

**1:00** Lunch

**2:00 Workshop # 2 *Creative Connections* with Gretchen Prowse**

In this session you will have the opportunity to raise your own VOICE through collaborating with others. We recognise that every Drama teacher has something to say and something worth listening to. We want all these voices to be heard and have devised a learning opportunity for this to happen. Throughout the session you will participate in activities that ask you to share how you organise your scope & sequence, what plays you teach and what units/resources work for different stages. This sharing will occur through structured reflections facilitated by your Hub Leader. We hope through raising everyone's VOICES that we can assist in building strong and lasting Drama networks, enhance the learning for Drama Students and support teachers in confidently planning programs. Whether you have taught for a term or a lifetime, Drama NSW is excited to run this session to ensure all our voices are heard.

**3:00** Conference close