



DRAMA NEW SOUTH WALES

ORANGE

Orange High School

Conference at a glance

Saturday 15th 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 *Developing Character and Directing High School Students* with Andrew Benson

“The actor has to develop his body. The actor has to work on his voice. But the most important thing the actor has to work on is his mind.” Stella Adler

The biggest challenge facing High School Drama Teachers is allowing students to be vulnerable and giving them permission to fail and succeed in the classroom context – giving them a voice and platform to use it. More often than not as teachers we jump in and show students how to perform a scene, create a character and develop a play. This creates a culture of learned helplessness in the creative space or worse; the students wanting you to perform more often as “you do it better than I do”.

This practical workshop will give you the skills and directorial foresight that will engage your students to raise their creative voices and make the right choices themselves in order to develop strong characters. A physical workshop that will explore *Laban/Lecoq* and *Commedia* and a practical directorial masterclass that will allow you to find the voice of your students more than yours in the classroom.

Andrew Benson is Assistant Head of Drama at Cranbrook School, previously teaching at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts and has extensive experience in teaching a wide range of students. Working across the arts in the professional fields of Theatre, TV and Film as an actor and director he

brings his professional experience into his classroom practice to engage his students. An experienced HSC drama maker and director of youth drama companies at school and at ATYP he has developed a way of working that allows his students to evolve as theatre practitioners. Andrew has reflected on his practice through a Masters of Applied Theatre Studies; exploring creative practice as Teacher and Director working with gifted and talented students to use self-efficacy and agency to engage and create dramatic work in the drama classroom and rehearsal room.

1:00 Lunch

2:00 Workshop # 2 *Creative Connections* with Dan Jones & Ryan Whitworth

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