



DRAMA NEW SOUTH WALES

SYDNEY

Sydney Theatre Company

Conference at a glance

Saturday 15th May 2021

8:30 Registration, Tea & Coffee

9:00

- **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 #1a *The Silenced Voices of Minority Students with Sylvia Morris*

Scholars and media commentators agree that we live in a unique historical moment marked by the inevitable reality of globalisation. political-economic and cultural integration. Innovations in science, transportation and communication technologies have created an interconnected world in which not only people, goods and services move across transnational borders, but cultures also interconnect globally. Australia embraces this new order of internationalisation, since it's posited as the most ethnically diverse nation in the world.

How might NSW Drama educators promote this global ethos of multiculturalism and tolerance associated with globalisation? This workshop will explore practical ways Drama educators can engage in provocative and transformative teaching styles; ones that stimulates consciousness and enhances students' cultural repertoires. Sylvia will illustrate how organic pedagogy can be incorporated into teaching materials in ways it benefits a multicultural student-body.

Sylvia Morris is a cosmopolitan Drama teacher with over 20 years teaching experience. She has taught in Africa, guest lectures at the Illinois State University (USA) and presently teaches at a metropolitan Sydney school. She is currently pursuing a PhD program at the University of Newcastle. Her research interest is in educational leadership, curriculum development, social justice and equity in education.

OR

Workshop #1b *Something to shout about! Exploring the possibilities of a drama-led curriculum with Dr Christine Hatton, Isabella Mistry and Georgia Wohlfiel*

Come see how drama can lead the way in providing rich learning across subject areas in schools. Based on an ongoing research project conducted in schools, this interactive workshop will explore *The Sanctuary Project*, a rolling role teaching project that uses drama to connect different curriculum subjects in an imaginative inquiry using

improvisation, puppetry, movement and technologies. In the drama experience participants will create a fictional community with a need to rehabilitate a local wetland. Through the drama, participants will consider the interspecies entanglements between humans, environments and animals across time. At the centre of the drama is the idea of sanctuary and what this means to humans and creatures, in particular, the migratory birds that circumnavigate the globe every year. The workshop will be conducted across two sites – Sydney and Port Macquarie to showcase how Heathcote’s rolling role system of teaching can connect multiple classes and sites in a shared drama experience. Bring your own device to this event.

Christine Hatton is a Senior Lecturer in drama and creative arts education at the School of Education, University of Newcastle. She is a Life Member Drama NSW and a passionate advocate for drama learning and curriculum. Her research explores playbuilding pedagogies, applied drama, ethnodrama, and drama learning and teaching (particularly methods using digital technologies). Recent projects have focused on contemporary theatre for young audiences, the applications of Heathcote’s rolling role system of teaching in schools, and the impacts of artists in schools. She is a co-editor of the recent publication *Drama Research Methods: Provocations of Practice* (Brill, 2018).

Isabella Mistry is an experienced performing arts teacher. She is a Theatre Nepean graduate (BA-Theatre Performance) and completed a BA in Teaching at UWS. She is interested in connections across curriculum and co-curriculum using the arts as drivers for rich learning. Isabella's Masters in Applied Theatre Studies research at UNE focussed on developing K-12 teaching frameworks to authentically link the mandatory curriculum to outcomes of all areas of the Performing Arts (Dance, Drama and Music). At St Columba’s, Isabella is leading the design and implementation of a Primary Performing Arts Hour with K-12 Performing Arts and Primary teachers.

Georgia Wohlfel is a graduate of the Bachelor of Communications/Theatre Media program at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst. She is a performer, director and professional puppeteer and puppet maker, specialising in giant puppets and community arts praxis. Recent performance credits include *The Red Tree* (Sydney Opera House/Arts Centre Melbourne), various productions with Curious Legends (Newcastle), and the immersive theatre performance *Midnight Visit* (Sydney). She has engaged in puppetry training intensives with *Spare Parts Puppet Theatre* (Perth), *Erth Visual & Physical Theatre Inc* (Sydney) and has completed an industry internship at *Terrapin Puppet Theatre* (Hobart).

1:00 Lunch

2:00 Workshop # 2 Creative Connections with Hannah Bamford and Rhéma Tieu

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.

4:00 Drinks & Canapes