



DRAMA QUEENSLAND STATE CONFERENCE

2 & 3 May, 2025

La Boite Theatre and QUT, Kelvin Grove

VENUE
SPONSORS

**LA
BOITE**



A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT



Lucy Harkin has designed a beautifully curated conference program centred around the theme - Bloom. This theme deeply resonates with me, not just as an avid gardener and lover of fresh flowers, but as an educator. Like you, I am navigating the complex challenges of teaching drama in 2025. It's easy to become overwhelmed by these obstacles, but BLOOM invites us to shift our mindset. It reminds us of the transformative power of drama education; not only in shaping the lives of our students but in enriching our own.

As a community, let's cultivate a vibrant learning environment where both students and educators can truly thrive together.

BLOOM is not just about growing as a teacher but also about evolving together as a state-wide community. This conference is designed to foster inspiring discussions about drama education, creating opportunities to expand teaching practices and explore exciting new perspectives. Engaging workshops will ignite creativity and innovation while delving into key curriculum areas, and the thought-provoking keynote presentations will reignite your passion and energise you. Additionally, BLOOM provides a valuable chance to reconnect with industry professionals, educational organisations, and colleagues, further enriching the experience.

As always, the state conference not only represents exceptional value for money but also continues to be the states most valuable professional development opportunity. Booking early ensure that you can secure your place and get access to your first choice of workshops. So please don't delay. Get that PD application in and I'll see you in May at BLOOM.

Scott Andrews
President, Drama Queensland

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE



Everything great comes from a seed, a thought, an idea. For ideas to grow, they must be nurtured in an environment that allows them to flourish. As teachers, artists, and Arts advocates, we continue to create an environment in which Drama in Queensland thrives and blooms.

In 2025 Drama Queensland is excited to bring to you BLOOM, a celebration of all the ways that Drama education nurtures our students into being better humans. It's time to go back to our roots, to sow new seeds, to experiment, to play. As a community, let's grow our unique garden that yields excellence for students and teachers alike.

Much like a flourishing garden, Drama in Queensland blooms through the branches of teaching, learning, challenging and reflection. BLOOM is our chance to nurture passions and cultivate ideas. Instead of feeling boxed in by curriculum design, let's see it as a scaffold alongside our growth that helps to support our students in growing tall. Together, let's prune away the weeds of challenge so that we can continue to bloom with opportunity!

Focus areas for BLOOM may include:

- Early Childhood and Primary ACARA V9.0
- Junior Secondary (Years 7-10) ACARA V9.0
- Applied Drama (Years 11 and 12) QCAA
- General Drama (Years 11 and 12) QCAA

- First Nations Perspective
- Teacher as Artist
- Industry Practice and its Application to Drama Education
- Advocacy
- Research in Drama Education

WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

We plant trees in whose shade we know we will never stand.

Drama Queensland is delighted to launch our full program for BLOOM! Our annual conference is an opportunity for us to come together as a Drama community, engage in professional development and share our artistry with one another. This year, we have worked alongside highly experienced drama educators, theatre practitioners and key industry leaders to cultivate a rich garden ripe for harvest! We are running a broad selection of workshops, research presentations, keynotes and artist masterclasses with a focus on professional development in both curriculum and practice. Through your participation you will nurture your artistry and plant seeds for new approaches to teaching and learning, whilst also growing your professional connections. We look forward to seeing you all at La Boite Theatre on the 2nd and 3rd May to continue our growth together and celebrate the excellence that is Drama education in Queensland.




Lucy Harkin

Conference Convenor

Vice President Professional Development Drama Queensland

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

CONFERENCE DAY ONE - FRIDAY 2 MAY

Session 1	4:30 – 5:00pm	Registration
	5:00 – 5:40pm	 Acknowledgement of Country Conference Welcome – Scott Andrews, Drama Queensland President DQ Life Member presentation Awards – Regional Grant and Robin Thomas Bursary
	5:40 – 6:20pm	 Drama Queensland Presents: Directors on Directors Courtney Stewart, Artistic Director of La Boite Theatre and Daniel Evans, Artistic Director of Queensland Theatre
	6:20 – 7:00pm	Industry Partner Meet and Greet – Light Dinner
	7:00 – 7:40pm	 Directing Masterclass – Courtney Stewart, Artistic Director of La Boite Theatre
	7:40 – 8:20pm	Drinks + Trade Displays
	8:20pm	Close of Day One

CONFERENCE DAY TWO - SATURDAY 3 MAY

Session 2	8:00 – 8:40am	Registration					
	8:40 – 9:20am	Acknowledgement of Country Conference Welcome – Scott Andrews, Drama Queensland President Industry Partner Acknowledgement					
	9:20 – 10:00am	 Panel – Why is education important in a public cultural institution? This panel presentation moderated by Professor Sandra Gattenhof, will have representatives from QPAC's Public Engagement Department, Katrina Torenbeek (Director – Engagement), Bradley Chatfield (Head of First Nations) and Adrienne Jones (Education Manager) discuss the opportunities for schools, educators and young people to engage more deeply with QPAC and its resources.					
Session 3	10:00 – 10:30am	Morning Tea + Trade Displays					
		Primary – Planting the Seeds	Cultivating Curriculum	Senior Years – Growing Drama in Practice	Senior Years – Flourishing General	Teacher as Artist – Pollinating your Practice	Beyond the Classroom – Feeding our Roots
	10:45am – 11:45pm (60 mins)	3.1 Mixing Up Theatre Magic Katie Gentle Shake & Stir Theatre Co	3.2 Forum Theatre and Film – A simple youth engagement tool Matt Stewart	3.3 Blooming Drama in Practice! Sam Neil	3.4 Anything but the BLOOMing Syllabus Sean Lubbers and Dr Tricia Clark-Fookes	3.5  Free Your Voice Rob Pensalfini Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble	3.6 Digital or Die? Thinking about the Future of Theatre and Performance Dr Kathryn Kelly, Dr Tessa Rixon, Dr Elizabeth Gibbs, Dr Susan Cake and Dr Shane Pike
Session 4	12:00 – 1:30pm (90 mins)	4.1 Calling All Earth Guardians! Dr Marthy Watson	4.2 Circus Storytelling Robert Kronk Flipside Circus	4.3 Long Form Improvisation Brendan Glanville Australian Acting Academy	4.4 Grow and Share – Story and Character Lucas Stibbard	4.5  A Writer Writes Right Next to You Steve Pirie	4.6 Now and Then (40mins) Dr John Nicolas Saunders and Tracey Sanders Long Harvest (40mins) Madonna Stinson
	1:40 – 2:30pm	Lunch + Trade Displays					
Session 5	2:40 – 3:40pm (60 mins)	5.1 Melodrama in Practice Elly Squire Australian Acting Academy	5.2 Years 5-10: Quality unit and assessment planning Lucy Flook and Jo Hine, Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority	5.3  Performance Making for Young People Sam Foster and Hayden Jones Shock Therapy Arts	5.4 Growing Stage Craft Melissa Rowse, Rebecca Head and Michael Los	5.5 Resilience Training Through Laughter Clint Bolster Homunculus Theatre Co.	5.6 Easy Stagecraft – The Tech Bits! Daniel Gosling Founder of Easy Stagecraft
Session 6	3:50 – 4:30pm	Close of Conference					



DRAMA QUEENSLAND STATE CONFERENCE

2 & 3 May, 2025

La Boite Theatre and QUT, Kelvin Grove

VENUE
SPONSORS

LA BOITE



DIGITAL PROGRAM AT A GLANCE





Drama Queensland is excited to be offering a Digital Program as part of the Drama Queensland State Conference – BLOOM. The Digital Program will be available to access for a set period of time (post conference) via a password protected digital platform provided by QPAC.

All in-person State Conference delegates and Digital Program delegates will have access to this platform, and access details will be provided to delegates following the conference.



RECORDED SESSIONS

More information about access will be released closer to the event.

 CONFERENCE DAY ONE FRIDAY 2 MAY	 CONFERENCE DAY TWO SATURDAY 3 MAY
Acknowledgement of Country Conference Welcome – Scott Andrews, Drama Queensland President DQ Life Member presentation Awards – Regional Grant and Robin Thomas Bursary	Panel – Why is education important in a public cultural institution? This panel presentation moderated by Professor Sandra Gattenhof, will have representatives from QPAC's Public Engagement Department, Katrina Torenbeek (Director – Engagement), Bradley Chatfield (Head of First Nations) and Adrienne Jones (Education Manager) discuss the opportunities for schools, educators and young people to engage more deeply with QPAC and its resources.
Drama Queensland Presents: Directors on Directors Courtney Stewart, Artistic Director of La Boite Theatre and Daniel Evans, Artistic Director of Queensland Theatre	Free Your Voice Rob Pensalfini, Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble
Directing Masterclass Courtney Stewart, Artistic Director of La Boite Theatre	A Writer Writes Right Next to You Steve Pirie
	Performance Making for Young People Sam Foster and Hayden Jones, Shock Therapy Arts



DRAMA QUEENSLAND STATE CONFERENCE

2 & 3 May, 2025

La Boite Theatre and QUT, Kelvin Grove

CONFERENCE
PARTNER



DIGITAL PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Costs: Digital Program Registration \$250

Key Dates:

Digital Program Registrations open:
Thursday 10 April, 2025

Digital Program Registrations close:
Saturday 10 May, 2025

Other Information:

Please visit the Drama Queensland website to register for the Digital Program
www.dramaqueensland.org.au/pd/conference/

All delegates will receive details on how to access the Digital Program on the portal, closer to the conference dates.





PRESENTATION | MASTERCLASS | PANEL



Drama Queensland Presents: Directors on Directors

Courtney Stewart, Artistic Director of La Boite Theatre and
Daniel Evans, Artistic Director of Queensland Theatre

Inspired by the *Variety* YouTube series, two of Queensland's sharpest theatrical minds come together to talk about life and art – curated for your experience, shaped by your questions.

In *Directors on Directors*, Artistic Director of La Boite Theatre **Courtney Stewart** and Artistic Director of Queensland Theatre **Daniel Evans** will come together to share their journey of artistry and work with you, our Drama Queensland delegates. Join us for a rich conversation about professional growth and practice.

See following page for presenter bios. >



Continued from previous page.

 **RECORDED SESSION**



➤ **Courtney Stewart** is an acclaimed director, dramaturg, actor and teaching artist with a deep passion for intercultural works and multicultural dramaturgies. She is the current Artistic Director and CEO of La Boite Theatre.

A proud Queenslander, Courtney started her professional career as an actor before honing her talents as an artistic leader, diversity advocate and change maker for some of the country's most prolific companies and organisations including Sydney Theatre Company (as Directing Associate and Richard Wherrett Fellow), Belvoir and Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (as Artistic Associate).

Courtney was previously Chair of the Equity Diversity Committee, a delegate to the National Performers Committee, and a former board member for Contemporary Asian Australian Performance.

Courtney has worked on acclaimed productions such as Maxine Beneba Clarke's *The Hate Race*, *The Poison of Polygamy* by Anchuli Felicia King *Miss Peony*, *Top Coat*, and *Single Asian Female* by Michelle Law.



Photographer: Jade Ellis

➤ **Daniel Evans** is an award-winning writer, director and producer who has worked internationally in theatre, festivals, print and television. He is currently the Artistic Director of Queensland Theatre.

In 2023, he won a Matilda Award for Best Director for his work on *The Almighty Sometimes* by Kendall Feaver (Queensland Theatre) and in 2020 for *Cinderella* by Matthew Whittet (QPAC & Myths Made Here).

As a director, his work includes *Vietgone* (Queensland Theatre), *Drizzle Boy* (Queensland Theatre), *Away* (La Boite Theatre) and *The Tragedy of King Richard The Third* (La Boite Theatre).

As a writer, he has written numerous works for the stage including *Joan Must Die** (**I Never Liked Her Anyway*) (QUT), *Algorithm* (QUT), *600 Ways To Filter A Sunset* (Queensland Theatre's Scene Project) and was the winner of the Queensland Premier's Drama Award for his play *Oedipus Doesn't Live Here Anymore* (Queensland Theatre/ ATYP).

Together with Amy Ingram, he founded critically acclaimed performance collective, The Good Room, whose works include *Let's Be Friends Furever* (Brisbane Festival), *I Want To Know What Love Is* (Queensland Theatre and Brisbane Festival, Brisbane Powerhouse, Critical Stages National Tour), *I Just Came To Say Goodbye* (Brisbane Festival), *I've Been Meaning To Ask You* (Brisbane Festival & Riverside Theatres, Sydney/Sydney Theatre Award 2021 Winner, Best Production for Young People), *That's What She Said* (Metro Arts) and *I Should Have Drunk More Champagne* (Metro Arts).

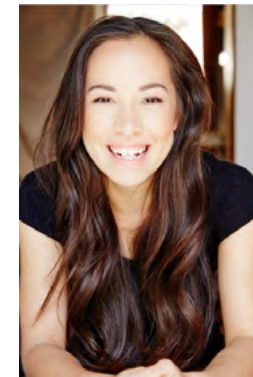
He has previously worked as a senior writer for *Frankie* magazine, *SMITH Journal* and *SPACES*, and as a producer for Endemol Shine Australia, iTV, Network Nine, Network Ten and SBS.



Directing Masterclass

Courtney Stewart, Artistic Director of La Boite Theatre

Navigate the ins and outs of forming a directorial vision and leading a safe rehearsal process with La Boite's Artistic Director and CEO, Courtney Stewart. This masterclass will explore a directorial process and help you sharpen your tools so that you can transform classic texts, shape the on-stage action, and collaborate with other creatives. During this masterclass Courtney will provide insight into her practice as a director, you will learn from one of Australia's most exciting creative leaders and enjoy a sneak peek into La Boite mainstage shows as part of their 100th anniversary season.



➤ **Courtney Stewart** is an acclaimed director, dramaturg, actor and teaching artist with a deep passion for intercultural works and multicultural dramaturgies. She is the current Artistic Director and CEO of La Boite Theatre.

A proud Queenslander, Courtney started her professional career as an actor before honing her talents as an artistic leader, diversity advocate and change maker for some of the country's most prolific companies and organisations including Sydney Theatre Company (as Directing Associate and Richard Wherrett Fellow), Belvoir and Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (as Artistic Associate).

Courtney was previously Chair of the Equity Diversity Committee, a delegate to the National Performers Committee, and a former board member for Contemporary Asian Australian Performance.

Courtney has worked on acclaimed productions such as Maxine Beneba Clarke's *The Hate Race*, *The Poison of Polygamy* by Anchuli Felicia King *Miss Peony*, *Top Coat*, and *Single Asian Female* by Michelle Law.





Why is education important in a public cultural institution?

As articulated in the Queensland Performing Arts Trust Act 1977, one of the guiding principles of the Queensland performing Arts Centre (QPAC) is that “children and young people should be supported in their appreciation of, and involvement in, the performing arts.” As QPAC celebrates its 40th year, how do we elevate education in our cultural institution?

QPAC is both a cultural institution and a vibrant civic centre where people, performance and ideas connect. These connections may occur in our venues, our digital environments and in communities across our state. Education can transform our institution from a mere venue into a dynamic ecosystem where creativity is sparked, skills are refined, and cultural literacy is expanded. It ensures that QPAC is not just a venue to consume performances but a place to actively participate in the arts.

In this panel presentation moderated by **Professor Sandra Gattenhof**, **Katrina Torenbeek** (Director – Engagement), **Bradley Chatfield** (Head of First Nations) and **Adrianne Jones** (Education Manager) will discuss the opportunities for schools, educators and young people to engage more deeply with QPAC and its resources. The panel will explore how building authentic relationships with our communities are essential to advocacy, participation, engagement and life-long learning through the arts.



➤ **Professor Sandra Gattenhof** is a researcher and practitioner in Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice Faculty at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) situated on Turrbul and Yugara lands in Meanjin (Brisbane). She is currently Academic Lead, Learning and Teaching in QUT School of Creative Arts. Sandra is internationally

recognised as expert in the field of arts education and arts & cultural evaluation and has authored books, book chapters, journal articles on the social impact of the arts and arts evaluation. Sandra was chief investigator for Australian Research Council Linkage Project *The Role of the Creative Arts in Regional Australia* (2019-2023), *Social Impact Strategy for the Puuya Foundation* (2021-2023), and led *Valuing the Arts Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand* (2020). Sandra is currently lead researcher for *Woven Stories: Engaging the Arts as a resource for resilience in rural communities*. Sandra is chair of the award-winning visual theatre company Dead Puppet Society, and board member for Perseverance Street Theatre (Gympie) and Counterpilot. In 2012 Sandra received Drama Queensland’s Life Member Award. Sandra received Drama Australia President’s Award for her outstanding contribution to drama education in 2021.

See following pages for presenter bios. ➤

Continued from previous page.



RECORDED SESSION



➤ **Bradley Chatfield – Head of First Nations, QPAC**

Bradley celebrates over 38 years in the creative and performing arts industry; 21 years as a Performing Artist and 17 years as a Rehearsal Director, teacher, educator, mentor and arts advisor. Bradley worked in education as, Head of Dance at the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts in Brisbane, Head of Contemporary Development and Course Director at Transit Dance in Melbourne.

Born in Mordialloc, Bradley is a descendant of the Kamilaroi people. Upon graduating from The Australian Ballet School, Bradley joined the Hong Kong Ballet. In 1991 he accepted a position with Sydney Dance Company (SDCo) under the direction of Graeme Murphy and Janet Vernon, remaining with the company until 2009 and performing the full company repertoire to great acclaim. Bradley toured extensively with SDCo, both in Australia and Internationally, including tours to the United States, Europe, China, Japan, Singapore, Mexico, New Zealand and South America.

Bradley has been the recipient of numerous dance awards Best Male Dancer Green Room Awards, 2003 Best Male Dancer Australian Dance Awards, 2003 Best Male Dancer Mo Awards, 2004 throughout his career and in 2009 was named in Sydney Morning Herald's Top 100 Most Influential People in Sydney.

During his career he has undertaken the restaging of many of Graeme Murphy's works in New Zealand, Hong Kong and for the season of 'MURPHY' with The Australian Ballet. In 2003/04, he toured in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats* playing the lead dance role, Mr Mistoffelees.

Bradley joined Dance North as their Rehearsal Director in 2010 for all main stage works, as well as working with the Community & Education team, touring regionally, Nationally and Internationally. In 2010, he also travelled to New York to

remount 'Underland' for Stephen Petronio's company which was originally created on Chatfield and SDCo.

As Head of First Nations Programming – Bradley currently curates the First Nations Programming at QPAC celebrating our First Nations storytellers and well as Clancestry – a celebration of First Nations arts and culture at QPAC.



➤ **Katrina Torenbeek, Director – Engagement, QPAC**

Currently the Director of Engagement within Curatorial at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) and curator of the Out of the Box festival 2025, Katrina Torenbeek has forged a 25+ year career in the Performing Arts in Australia. In executive programming and management roles Katrina has creatively produced, managed and led signature programs, festivals and events

for a number of key Queensland arts organisations including QLD Music Trails, Queensland Music Festival (QMF), Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), Southern Cross Soloists and Brisbane Cabaret Festival. She has co-managed MAPS for Artists, the Australia Council Initiative in Queensland for Metro Arts for 5 years, whilst creatively producing multiple works for independent touring artists. She has also worked closely with the Arts Education sector for many years, managing Drama Queensland, Drama Australia and IDEA – the International Association for Drama in Education concurrently. Katrina has held Executive Positions with QMF, board positions with Playlab Theatre and Brisbane Cabaret Festival, as well as sitting on the Helpmann Awards Cabaret Panel for Live Performance Australia. Katrina was a 2019 participant and graduate of Creative Australia's Arts Leaders Program.

Continued from previous page.



RECORDED SESSION



➤ **Adrienne Jones – Education Manager, QPAC**

In 2024, Adrienne was appointed Education Manager at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC). Adrienne is a teacher artist with extensive experience across various educational and artistic contexts. Her career spans roles as a teacher, lecturer, consultant, curriculum designer, chair, and board/committee member within the arts, education, and health sectors. She has worked with diverse communities, including young people, their families, artists, tertiary

students, and school communities, to initiate, plan, and deliver impactful programs. She was State Panel Chair QCAA for Drama for ten years and Chair of the Drama Syllabus Subcommittee in 2003.

From 2007 to 2012, Adrienne served as the teacher artist for the KITE Arts Education Program at QPAC. In 2015, she was one of the Senior Project Writers for The Arts team in C2C, creating drama resources and programs for the national curriculum. Adrienne has also written accompanying materials for several theatre companies, including the hit musical *Wicked*, *Children of the Black Skirt*, and, more recently, for Jute Theatre Company in 2021-2022.

Holding a Master of Arts (Research), Adrienne's thesis explored the effects of arts education programs on low socio-economic communities. She was a sessional Drama Lecturer in the Education Department at the University of Queensland in 2016-2017, and from 2017 to 2019, she served as the *YConnect* Manager, delivering and researching arts education programs at Yeronga State High School in partnership with Griffith University's Drama Department. Adrienne was Head of the Arts at Yeronga SHS during this time until 2023.

Currently a PhD candidate at Griffith University, Adrienne is also a sessional lecturer for the Senior Drama Curriculum in the School of Education. In 2019, she was a national finalist for the Australia Education Awards for Head of Department for The Arts and is a Life Member of Drama Queensland.





SESSION INFORMATION

3.1 PRIMARY – PLANTING THE SEEDS

Mixing Up Theatre Magic

Presented by Katie Gentle from Shake & Stir Theatre Co

Join Shake & Stir Theatre Co and immerse yourself in their adaptation of *George's Marvellous Medicine* as you cook up the wonder of Children's Theatre and the stage magic you can conjure. Unpack the dramatic languages that can delight and wow audiences big and small alike. A practical and immersive unpacking of conventions plus elements, script work and devising opportunities. Great for Middle or Senior devising units or enriching Primary performance outcomes. A little magic can take you a long way.

➤ **Katie Gentle** is the Education Manager for Shake & Stir Theatre Co, with a decade of experience as a Drama and English teacher. She works across the company to establish connections with the curriculum, including In-School Shows, Mainstage, Regional & Remote touring and producing the annual Qld Youth Shakespeare Festival.

➤ **Shake & Stir Theatre Co** specialise in re-contextualising classical work and having developed original content for the stage for over 15 years. Producing an annual season of in-school productions, of Shakespeare adaptations and issue-based plays, main stage productions and workshops, Shake & Stir love engaging students with theatrical experiences.



3.2 CULTIVATING CURRICULUM

Forum Theatre and Film – A simple youth engagement tool

Presented by Matt Stewart

A practical workshop on delivering Forum Theatre (also known as Theatre of the Oppressed) for Drama and non-Drama students in Years 7-10, as a means of stimulating conversations around important social issues that are impacting young people today. The aim is to plant seeds of critical thinking that will bloom sometime in the future.

➤ **Matt Stewart** is Australia's leading practitioner of Forum Theatre. He was co-founder of Darlinghurst Theatre Company and Milk Crate Theatre for Sydney's homeless community. He has successfully adapted Forum Theatre for many companies, including Mind Blank Inc and now works for Constable Care, delivering and teaching Forum Theatre. He is the first person in the world to use film as a medium to deliver Forum Theatre to a greater audience, including regular sessions at Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre.



3.3 SENIOR YEARS – GROWING DRAMA IN PRACTICE

Blooming Drama in Practice!

Presented by Sam Neil

This immersive workshop is designed for teachers who are ready to cultivate and nurture a vibrant Drama classroom, where students can truly bloom. Using the applied framework in Drama in Practice, participants will explore a range of techniques to make Drama accessible, engaging, and meaningful for students through collaborative participation.

This workshop equips you with dynamic, practical strategies to help students flourish through the transformative power of Drama. You'll leave with confidence and adaptable project ideas that are accessible for all learners and ready to use.

Familiarity with the Drama in Practice syllabus is helpful but not required—come ready to cultivate creativity and watch your students blossom.

➤ **Sam Neil** is a Drama teacher and current HoD Arts at Education Queensland. He has worked in various assessor roles within the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority, leading to a secondment working as a Principal Education Officer (The Arts) in 2021. He is the current Vice President of Communications for Drama Queensland.



3.4 SENIOR YEARS – FLOURISHING GENERAL

Anything but the BLOOMing Syllabus

Presented by Sean Lubbers and Dr Tricia Clark-Fookes

Over the past 50 years, Drama/Arts education in Queensland has bloomed. However, recent challenges in schools have made it difficult for Drama educators, resulting in fewer students engaging with the art form and a rise in alternative curriculum delivery programs. While advocacy for syllabus revisions/reforms have been ongoing, focusing solely on syllabus issues is limiting.

This forum provides a space for Drama teachers to share and learn from each other's experiences, contributing qualitative data towards the development of an advocacy paper. This forum aims to focus on solutions, with storytelling/process drama at its core, while avoiding mention of the BLOOMing syllabus.

➤ **Sean Lubbers** is HoD Arts at Forest Lake SHS and was LIC Drama at ACU from 2018-2022. Sean is a former President of DQ and DA Board member and is Lead Confirmer for the QCAA. Sean has been on many syllabus writing committees and has an interest in teacher voices in ethnographic Drama research.

➤ **Dr Tricia Clark-Fookes** currently holds the position of senior lecturer in Arts curriculum and pedagogy at QUT Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice Faculty. She is an educational leader, including the development and delivery of state-wide curriculum and training programs, and engagements with Arts organisations as a teaching artist.



3.5 TEACHER AS ARTIST – POLLINATING YOUR PRACTICE



RECORDED SESSION

Free Your Voice

Presented by Rob Pensalfini from Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble

“Get to know your voice: it’s strong, it’s resilient, it’s expressive, it’s you.”
– Kristin Linklater.

A responsive, clear, and flexible voice is essential for powerful communication: onstage, in the classroom, and in daily life. This workshop introduces fundamental principles and exercises used by QSE actors and by performers worldwide to develop vocal nuance, clarity, power, and freedom.

Based on the Linklater method (*Freeing the Natural Voice*), participants will gain practical techniques to strengthen their vocal practice and explore vocal health strategies, especially for teachers. This hands-on workshop includes exercises adaptable for classrooms and rehearsals. Wear comfortable clothing for movement-based activities.

➤ **Dr Robert Pensalfini** is the Artistic Director of QSE, as well as Associate Professor of Linguistics and Drama at UQ. He was designated by Kristin Linklater in 2003 to teach the Linklater Voice methodology. Aside from acting and directing, Rob has taught hundreds of actors to use their voices more effectively.



3.6 BEYOND THE CLASSROOM – FEEDING OUR ROOTS



Digital or Die? Thinking about the Future of Theatre and Performance

Presented by Dr Kathryn Kelly, Dr Tessa Rixon, Dr Elizabeth Gibbs, Dr Susan Cake and Dr Shane Pike

This interactive lecture shares findings about digital performance including:

- How the traditional approaches of Drama can be used to develop arresting and unique digital AND live performance, often within the same project or dramatic work.
- The potential of digital performance to grow new, younger and more diverse audiences in their future careers.
- Current Australian industry understandings of best practices of digital performance from our nine partner organisations, including Sydney Theatre Company and QPAC.

Our aim is to excite educators and students about the unique contribution Drama can make to the digital realm and the potential for bloom and growth.



➤ **Dr Kathryn Kelly** is a dramaturg and Senior Lecturer at QUT in the Acting and Drama area specialising in dramaturgy and socially engaged, feminist, transcultural and digital performance, including ARC Linkage. She is currently dramaturg with Belloo Creative, with upcoming show Back to Bilo at Queensland Theatre and Brisbane Festival.

➤ **Dr Tessa Rixon** is Senior Lecturer at QUT. Tessa's research promotes new modes of integrating established and emergent technologies into live performance; exploring the potentiality of authenticity within digital scenography; and showcasing Australian performance design practice and histories.

➤ **Dr Elizabeth Gibbs** (nee Old) was a principal dancer with Rambert, London, for fourteen years and the Associate Artistic Director of Australian Dance Theatre from 2008 – 2018. Currently a lecturer at QUT, she is the lead investigator for the ARC Linkage project Advancing Digital Innovation in the Australian Live Performance Sector.

➤ **Dr Susan Cake** is a Senior Lecturer in Screenwriting at QUT. Her research focuses on narrative comedy script development and has been published in national and international journals. She was a chief investigator examining screen production on the Gold Coast and is a CI on an ARC Linkage Project.

➤ **Dr Shane Pike's** current focus is emerging technologies such as Augmented Reality: creating experiences that also leverage Artificial Intelligence in creative processes that have mainstream commercial and clinical applications.

4.1 PRIMARY – PLANTING THE SEEDS

Calling All Earth Guardians!

Presented by Dr Marthy Watson

The last tree on Earth carries a crucial message: become an Earth Guardian to foster a sustainable world!

This workshop raises awareness of the effect of change on people and the environment. Participants will use picture books as inspiration to gather stories and dialogues, creatively voicing the last tree through dramatic techniques.

This unit connects to the English and HASS curriculum and demonstrates the role of drama in enhancing creativity and learning. The practical workshop will be inviting for Primary and Junior Secondary teachers, and the unit is adaptable to various year levels.

Notes and a unit plan will be provided for teachers.

➤ **Dr Marthy Watson** is a lecturer at the University of Southern Queensland. Her research focuses on reflective practice through arts-based learning and arts integration. She collaborates and works alongside educators to transform the arts through expressive learning and engagement, aiming to enhance arts-based practices to promote active classroom learning.



4.2 CULTIVATING CURRICULUM

Circus Storytelling

Presented by Robert Kronk from Flipside Circus

Circus arts provide students with a unique and exciting way to build confidence, take creative risks, and explore their physical and emotional boundaries. Integrating circus skills into the Drama classroom can enrich students' experiences. But without the right preparation, it can feel daunting to safely introduce circus skills into the classroom.

Led by Robert Kronk and Flipside Circus' experienced practitioners, this hands-on session will teach you how to safely implement engaging circus tricks while ensuring an inclusive and supportive environment for all abilities.

You'll leave with a solid toolkit of activities and exercises to energise your Drama lessons with practical skills.

Requirements: Come dressed to move! Wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to work in bare feet or socks.

➤ **Robert Kronk** is CEO/Artistic Director of Flipside Circus. He is co-founder of debase productions, an award-winning playwright, and has worked extensively as a director, performer, and producer. Robert has taught at QUT, USQ and CQU and delivered workshops and masterclasses for students and teachers around Australia.



4.3 SENIOR YEARS – GROWING DRAMA IN PRACTICE

Long Form Improvisation

Presented by Brendan Glanville from Australian Acting Academy

Led by Brendan Glanville, creator of the Safety Net Philosophy, this hands-on workshop is designed for Drama educators and youth leaders across experience levels. Participants will explore long-form improvisation techniques in a safe, supportive environment, learning methods that allow students to take creative risks and build confidence.

Aimed at teachers working with mixed-age or co-ed groups, the workshop equips educators with practical skills adaptable to diverse classrooms. Participants will leave with actionable techniques in long-form improvisation, storytelling strategies to encourage empathy, and tools to foster inclusive, collaborative classrooms. Through this workshop, educators will gain the skills to reshape storytelling in ways that inspire personal and societal transformation.

Requirements: Attendees should dress comfortably for movement and bring a notebook for reflections.

➤ **Brendan Glanville**, Founder, and Artistic Director of The Australian Acting Academy, is a degree-qualified professional with an impressive tenure leading the organisation since its establishment in 1994. As a highly engaging and dynamic speaker, Brendan's skills extend to program development and directing for both stage and screen. His unwavering passion for Drama in Education has driven him to design and deliver impactful workshops. Brendan's approach aims to inspire empowerment through storytelling, making him a compelling figure at the forefront of Drama education.



4.4 SENIOR YEARS – FLOURISHING GENERAL

Grow and Share – Story and Character

Presented by Lucas Stibbard

Taking examples from *boy girl wall* and using practical exercises around Laban, and other techniques, to explore Storytelling and Character, Lucas will help participants reconnect with the way we can elevate storytelling using body, voice and role – as well as his overarching philosophy of Theatricality, Imagination and The Joy of Play.

➤ **Lucas Stibbard** is a director, performer, actor, writer, designer, dramaturg and teaching-artist. He has worked for QUT, Griffith, UniSQ, NIDA, Bell Shakespeare, MTC, QT, La Boite, Backbone, Shake & Stir, debase and Windmill among others, and toured with works including Helpmann award nominated *boy girl wall*.



4.5 TEACHER AS ARTIST – POLLINATING YOUR PRACTICE



RECORDED SESSION

A Writer Writes Right Next to You

Presented by Steve Pirie

With more dogs having stars on Hollywood Boulevard than writers, it's no wonder we treat story craft like an afterthought.

In Australian theatre, where classics and adaptations reign, playwriting and new stories struggle to break through. But in this workshop with award-winning playwright Steve Pirie, you'll learn about the hidden craft of new stories, how we learn from the past to create something new, and where new stories can begin in your classroom – or just for you.

If you have a half-finished draft, a messy Notes app, or are curious about volunteering in the battle of the blank page, this workshop is for you.

➤ **Steve Pirie's** plays have appeared in community halls, school auditoriums, universities and Mainstage theatre companies. He was awarded the Queensland Premier's Drama Award and was an Associate Artist with Queensland Theatre from 2021–2024. Steve has partnered with Drama teachers to engage, entertain, and train young performers nationwide for over 12 years.



4.6 BEYOND THE CLASSROOM – FEEDING OUR ROOTS

Now and Then: Two Case Studies of Year 12 Boys' Experiences in Drama in Queensland, 21 Years Apart

Presented by Dr John Nicolas Saunders and Tracey Sanders

This paper compares two case studies on adolescent male perceptions of Senior Drama in Queensland's single-gender classrooms, conducted in 2003 and 2024. It examines the impact of syllabus design on creativity, identity, and agency, as well as the evolving role of Drama teachers. The study explores differences and commonalities between the 1990s/2000s Drama syllabus, which emphasised aesthetic learning, and the 2019 syllabus, based on Marzano and Kendall's taxonomy. Findings highlight how curriculum changes shape student experiences and artistic engagement over two decades.

Long Harvest

Presented by Madonna Stinson

This paper presents research undertaken with people who are in their middle years, arguably at the peak of their careers, and who studied Drama in the 90s. During interviews individuals shared what they considered to be unique and transformative learning in the Drama classroom from their own perspective, and what they took from Drama into their diverse careers. Some of what they say may surprise you. Drama seedlings have flourished and bloomed in many differing contexts.

➤ **Dr John Nicholas Saunders** is a Lecturer in Education at Australian Catholic University (Brisbane). With extensive experience in Drama, Arts, and Literacy Education, he has taught across various sectors. He is President of AAAE, Chair of NAAE, and a Drama Australia board member.

➤ **Associate Professor Tracey Sanders** (SFHEA) is State Head of Australian Catholic University's National School of Education (Queensland). A Drama and Arts Educator, sociologist, and inclusive education expert, she has extensive experience across education sectors. Her research focuses on performance ethnography, Drama education, gender, and teacher education.

➤ **Madonna Stinson** is a DQ Life Member and ex-Executive. She taught in Queensland government schools for 20 years before becoming a teacher educator, first in Singapore, then UniMelb and Griffith. She's a passionate advocate for quality arts education to be accessible to all.



5.1 PRIMARY – PLANTING THE SEEDS



Melodrama in Practice

Presented by Elly Squire, Australian Acting Academy

Melodrama in Practice is a fun and practical approach to the teaching of Melodrama. It is aimed at all students in upper primary studying Melodrama as a part of the curriculum. It is also an engaging option for after school drama troupes or extra-curricular activities.

➤ **Elly Squire** is an educator and circus artist who has taught with AAA for over two years and is renowned for her family-friendly work as well as shows for grown-ups. Elly's acclaimed works include *Yee Howdy* at Adelaide Fringe, and *I Made This For You* at Lost Lands Festival.



5.2 CULTIVATING CURRICULUM

Years 5-10: Quality unit and assessment planning

Presented by Lucy Flook and Jo Hine from Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority

In this interactive presentation, QCAA officers share processes for quality unit and assessment planning in The Arts. Teachers will explore considerations for unit and assessment planning through sample curriculum and assessment plans, as well as assessment tasks across Years 5 to 10. Connecting curriculum and its benefits will also be explored. Standard elaborations will be investigated, with a focus on how to make task-specific marking guides. Teachers will participate in practical activities, exploring QCAA quality assurance tools to audit curriculum and assessment plans as well as assessment tasks.

➤ **Lucy Flook** is currently working as officer for The Arts at QCAA. Lucy has previously worked in External Assessment and across General and Applied Arts subjects. She has been a HOD, State Dance Panellist, C2C Arts Writer, 2019 QCAA General Dance Syllabus writer and is the Qld choreographer for the Australian Girls Choir.

➤ **Jo Hine** is currently working at QCAA in The Arts. Jo has previously worked as a PPO for Visual Art. Jo is an experienced Visual Art panel member, 2019 General Visual Art Syllabus writer, QAGOMA's teacher advisory group member, QATA conference director and a writer of Creative Inquiry, a textbook for Queensland Senior Visual Art.



5.3 SENIOR YEARS – GROWING DRAMA IN PRACTICE



RECORDED SESSION

Performance Making for Young People

Sam Foster and Hayden Jones from Shock Therapy Arts

Young artists often have great ideas but struggle with structure. Shock Therapy Arts has developed a streamlined approach to help clarify and shape concepts into compelling performances.

This workshop shares practical tools for guiding students from research and development to final staging, ensuring their ideas translate into clear, engaging storytelling.

➤ **Sam Foster** is an award-winning performer, director, writer, and producer. He co-founded Shock Therapy Arts and has worked in theatre, film, and large-scale events across Australia and internationally, including in New York, London, and South Africa. His expertise spans physical theatre, movement direction, stunt performance, and education.

➤ **Hayden Jones** is a performer and theatre-maker working across theatre, installation, immersive experiences, and cross-art collaborations. As a co-founder of Shock Therapy Arts, he has written, directed, and performed nationally, specialising in youth and Theatre-in-Education, helping young artists create compelling performances.



5.4 SENIOR YEARS – FLOURISHING GENERAL

Growing Stage Craft

Melissa Rowse, Rebecca Head and Michael Los

Catering for high school teachers, participants will leave with practical exercises to apply with their students in exploring stagecraft. This practical workshop will explore how to visually liberate text and grow dramatic action through stagecraft for students.

➤ **Rebecca Head, Michael Los and Melissa Rowse** teach at Ferny Grove State High. This team enjoy working collaboratively to bring consistency in the classroom, within their department. They approach teaching and learning in a kinaesthetic way, believing knowledge needs to be shown through the manipulation of skills, rather than spoken about.



5.5 TEACHER AS ARTIST – POLLINATING YOUR PRACTICE



Resilience Training Through Laughter

Clint Bolster from Homunculus Theatre Co.

Join Clint Bolster in an engaging workshop to empower Drama teachers with unique tools for fostering resilience through laughter. With over 20 years of experience in physical comedy, clowning, and mask theatre, Clint's workshop will provide an unforgettable experience, utilising laughter as a powerful force for connection, creativity, and personal growth.

This hands-on session invites participants to embrace vulnerability, tap into their authentic selves, and unlock their creative potential. Clint's approach demonstrates how laughter can build emotional connection, enhance communication, and strengthen a sense of community in the classroom.

This workshop not only energises and inspires but also equips Drama educators with practical strategies for developing resilience in their students.

➤ **Clint Bolster**, Artistic Director of Homunculus Theatre, boasts a 20-year career in Clowning. He's part of Cirque Du Soleil's clown database, featured in *Slavas' Snow Show's* 2022/2023 Australian Tour, and mentors with The Media, Entertainment, and Arts Alliance -while serving as a Board Member for Indel-Ability Arts in Queensland.



5.6 BEYOND THE CLASSROOM – FEEDING OUR ROOTS

Easy Stagecraft – The Tech Bits!

Daniel Gosling, Founder of Easy Stagecraft

Join Daniel for a hands-on look at the technical side of theatre and teaching those elements in the classroom! Learn some 'Easy Stagecraft' tips and tricks in lighting (using colours and finding your light), sound (mics, position, feedback and what not to do!), vision (how do I plug it in anyway?!) and production management! And, also, some tricks on how to start the "money for the arts" talk with the business manager about your much needed upgrade or training! Bring your questions, ideas, and problems and we can explore them together!

➤ **Daniel Gosling** has been a technical production professional for over 20 years across theatre, dance, opera, broadcast and in every technical department – and now brings his training and experience to the classroom for the next generation.



REGISTRATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I REGISTER?

You can register and pay for the conference two ways.

1. Register Online via the DQ website and Pay by Credit Card
2. Fill out and online Registration Form from the DQ website and Pay by EFT (must pay before registrations close to secure spot)

For both options visit:

dramaqueensland.org.au/pd/conference/conference-registration/

KEY DATES

- Registration Opens: FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2025
- Early Bird Rates Close: FRIDAY 28 MARCH 2025
- Registration Closes: FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2025

WHAT IS INCLUDED WITH MY REGISTRATION FEE?

- Registration Fees includes Conference Program including keynotes, workshops, performances; Conference satchel and materials, Trade Displays, Catering (Friday registration, Saturday Morning tea, Lunch, and closing drinks)
- Individual and Concession (student/unemployed) rates are for all Drama Queensland Members

ARE REGIONAL FUNDING GRANTS AVAILABLE?

Regional Funding grants are available to Drama Queensland members. Please visit the DQ website for application details.

REGISTRATION FEES – Friday 2 May & Saturday 3 May 2025

MEMBERSHIP	EARLY BIRD	FULL PRICE
INDIVIDUAL	\$300	\$ 350
CONCESSION	\$170	\$220
NON-MEMBER	\$420	\$460
DIGITAL PROGRAM	\$250 (flat rate)	
PRESENTERS	\$110 (flat rate)	

DO YOU HAVE ANY ACCOMODATION RECOMMENDATIONS?

Accommodation listings close to the venue can found on the DQ website. Please book early as there are some football events on the same weekend.

For more information email: conference@dramaqueensland.org.au

