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### State Conference Launch!

## DramaWest State Conference...Inspire 2012!

The title 'Inspire' depicts what drama teachers aim to do every day in their drama rooms. The conference promises to not only inspire delegates but also explore ways we can reach out and inspire **all** our students.

Some of the workshops and papers currently planned include:

- Autism
- Literacy Through Drama
- Primary Drama
- Bollywood
- Stage Combat
- Practical Aesthetics
- Verbatim Theatre
- Design and Production
- Circus Skills
- Working with Boys
- Working with Girls
- Gifted and Talented Students
- ACARA

### **Cost:**

Current Member	\$120
Non-Member	\$195
Current Student member	\$50
Student non-member	\$85

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8.30 am	Registration
9.00 -10.30 am	Welcome and Keynote
10.30 -11.15 am	Morning Tea and peruse Industry Stalls
11.15 -12.45	Workshop 1
12.45 – 1.30	Lunch

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1.30 – 3.00pm	Workshop 2
3.00 – 4.30 pm	Workshop 3
4.30 – 5.30 pm	Drinks - Off campus. Venue to be confirmed.

If you would like to present a workshop or paper, please see the Call for Contributions information included in the newsletter. If you have any further ideas or suggestions, please contact the conference coordinator, Christina Gray on [c.gray@ecu.edu.au](mailto:c.gray@ecu.edu.au)



Call For  
Contributions.doc

#### From the Presidents...

*Hello to all our DramaWestralians! We hope you have had a lovely Easter break and your term/semester is off to a good start.*

*First and foremost... have you all put Paris in your diary for 2013? Yahoo! IDEA, The International Drama/Theatre and Education Association holds a world Congress every three years. Next year, the IDEA Congress will be in Paris. You can find out more about IDEA here: <http://www.idea-org.net/en/>*

*Last month, a number of teachers from WA jumped on a jet plane and headed east for the national drama conference 'Delve' hosted by Drama Queensland. The conference had around 500 delegates in attendance and a wonderful line up of keynotes, workshops, papers and performances was organised. The conference was thoroughly enjoyed by all and an absolute credit to the DQ Association. It was also lovely to hear our colleagues still talking about 'Spaces of Performance' and what a wonderful conference we had organised last year!*

*We held our first PD for the year on Saturday 17th of March. Christine Adams presented a session for new teachers at ECU on exploring the WACE syllabus. As happened last year too, the participants said that they appreciated all the incidental 'how to manage it all' information.*

*Christine is stepping down from her roles as co-president and DALO happily, but with reluctance. There are two reasons for this change. Firstly she needs to leave these roles so that there is no perceived or actual conflict of interest. 'What conflict?' you may ask. As one of the two writers for the Drama part of the National Arts Curriculum, it would not be appropriate for Christine to be collecting feedback on the Draft which will be out for consultation shortly. Secondly, she has recently taken up the position of principal policy advisor in Minister Constable's office. However this is only for one year until the state election. Christine is hugely grateful for all the support and friendship from the committee and membership, and from Christina and Sven in particular. She says that it has been an amazing journey but so worthwhile and rewarding.*

*With the invaluable support and guidance of John Kural, the committee has been working on updating our Constitution. While there is still much to do, we plan to present the revised constitution to members at this year's AGM for voting.*

*Our State Drama conference is set for Saturday the 11th of August and this year, will be hosted by Shenton College. Please mark the date in your diaries and watch this space for more information shortly! Next year, we have been invited by Marion Palmer down to Mandurah for the State Conference which will be great fun.*

*Please don't hesitate to contact us or any of the committee members throughout the year should you need assistance or have some ideas you'd like to discuss. We are always happy to help and support our colleagues.*

*Christina Gray and Christine Adams*

#### What's On...



**DramaWest WACE Exam Workshops for Students**  
**When: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> (Written) & Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July (Practical)**  
**Time: 8.45am-3.30pm each day**  
**Where: ECU, Mt Lawley, Building 16, Room 117**

**Cost: \$60/person (One Day) or \$100/person (Two Days)**

Don't let your students miss out on this informative 2-day collection of workshops that covers all areas of the WACE Exams: Practical (OSP, Scripted Monologue, Improvisation, Interview) and Written (Short & Extended Answer). We have pulled together some of Perth's highest quality drama teachers and practitioners to give students an insight into what to expect, and how to succeed, in the WACE exams.

Enrolment forms will be sent out soon, or you can email Sven to enrol early and get payment details.

[info@dramawest.com.au](mailto:info@dramawest.com.au)

### ...In Schools

**Stories from Suburban Road**  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm**  
**St Brigid's College**  
**\$10/ticket**

*An ensemble cast of talented Year 12 students from St Brigid's College perform in this nostalgic show about growing up in rural Australia. Tickets available at the door, or email [sills.mark@stbrigids.wa.edu.au](mailto:sills.mark@stbrigids.wa.edu.au)*

**Alice of Hearts**  
**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>-Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm (Doors open at 7pm)**  
**Helena College**  
**\$5/ticket**

*Helena College's Year 11 Drama students will perform in this zany, energetic show about Alice's return to Wonderland; but it's not the Wonderland she remembers... Tickets available at the door, or email [ktwynam-perkins@helena.wa.edu.au](mailto:ktwynam-perkins@helena.wa.edu.au)*

### ...In the Community

**4Arts Festival**  
**14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June**  
**State Theatre Centre**

**Bookings through respective theatre companies**

This exciting venture from Black Swan, WASO, WA Opera and WA Ballet is an opportunity NOT to be missed! Featuring FREE performances and workshops for students, this event is sure to fill up fast. Don't miss out on getting your students involved with this one...you will regret it! More information can be found in the document attached to this newsletter.



12-03-06 4Arts  
Festival announced.d

### **Perth International Comedy Festival**

**2<sup>nd</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May**

**Various Venues**

**Tickets through BOCS**

**Full Programme and more information available from [www.perthcomedyfest.com.au](http://www.perthcomedyfest.com.au)**

*Don't let the Perth International Comedy Festival pass you by!*

*This is your opportunity to get out and see some of the best comedic acts from Australia and the world, right here in Perth. Lots of favourites are returning, like Tripod, Hannah Gadsby, and Tom Gleeson... but be extra sure not to miss The Pajama Men (from the USA, absurd sketch comedy that has sell-out seasons around the world) and the always delightful stories of Daniel Kitson (from the UK, with five star reviews from everywhere he goes).*

*Tickets are selling fast!*

### **National Interest**

**5<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May**

**Heath Ledger Theatre**

**Tickets through BOCS**

*Aidan Fennessy's beautifully written account of his family's involvement in the Balibo Five tragedy of 1975 goes behind the headlines to explore the impact of grief and tragedy on a family. Black Swan's latest offering in their 2012 season is one not to be missed.*

### **DALO Update**

Drama Queensland set new standards with their huge conference in the South Bank area of Brisbane. They did a spectacular job with a lot of people. On the first day I travelled by CAT ferry down the Brisbane River to their Powerhouse complex which is used for the Blue Room types of shows plus it has great spaces for music events as well. The board meeting was in the morning so the rest of us non-board people sat on the verandah overlooking the river and shared stories about Drama curriculum and events in each of our states. This networking was definitely one of the best parts of the conference for me. Interestingly, Drama Vic are thinking of have co-presidents too. They are funded by the state to have an office and teachers have to do PD through them each year. This makes Drama Vic one of the strongest associations. Drama NSW have benefited from the efforts of the wonderful Alan Blackwood who taught in Perth for many years. He is credited with revitalising the association. All of us have challenges reaching the primary teacher audience and we talked for some time about how to address this knowing that primary teachers will not want to join five associations, one for each art subject, but how do we do this. Shortly, all primary children will have to be taught five arts subjects, and we want this to be a fun, and accessible for the teachers.

The main focus for Drama Australia for the next months will be the consultation on the Draft Australian Curriculum for the Arts. DramaWest provides feedback from the membership to Drama Australia who then feedback to ACARA. I don't have a date for the release of the curriculum but expect it might be in the next three months.

It is vital that you engage with this task so that you get the curriculum you want and deserve. It is quite a good idea to look at some of the phase one subjects to see how they are written; except that Drama is not a focus for every year like the others.

What you can see from the other subjects is that there are content descriptors which are what you have to teach. The emphasis here is on the 'have to'. Next to these are elaborations which are examples of what the content descriptor might look like when students are doing that. The elaborations are NOT 'have to's'. Can we all make a big effort to respond as Drama West, and as individuals. ACARA will carefully consider all feedback, and individual feedback that is personal feedback is highly valued ie not copies of feedback that you simply sign.

**A short, and final, Drama Australia National Conference update for those who attended the conference: These are very good resources!**

Delve Conference Resources.

In the past week we have added another four resources to the Delve website, for download. We may receive a few resources over the next few weeks and will upload them as they come in, so we encourage you to keep checking the secret link.

This link is not visible to general browsers on our website, as the resources are exclusively for those who registered and attended the Drama Australia National Conference.

For those of you who have lost your username and password, they are as follows.

Username - delve

Password - spacejump

These resources will remain accessible for some time, but we do encourage you to download anything you wish to reference for a longer period.

### Curriculum Updates

Curriculum Council (WA) ... not anymore!

That is right! Even the folk over there at 27 Walters Drive OSBORNE PARK are still getting their heads and voices around the new name: School Curriculum and Standards Authority! Fortunately my first phone call in my new role was Christine Adams so she was nice to me when I got it horribly wrong. So new name but we won't be using the initials SCSA – we're the School Curriculum and Standards Authority or the Authority for short.

Big whoop? Not quite. It's not a mere name change – it's a brand new Act (one that I've actually read) and it identifies a huge collection of changes for the Authority. For example, we are going to be administering the records of ALL students in WA (Department of Education, Catholic Education, and Australian Independent Schools Association of WA) from Kindergarten to Year 12. We will take on the duties for administering NAPLAN. We will also be supporting the roll out of all Australian Curricular for WA – Phase One rolls out in July this year (that is, English, Maths, Science and History) and Phase Two Draft Curriculum for the Arts will be out for consultation VERY soon.

At the Authority, for both Dance and Drama, I've been updating all the Unit Packages for teachers. I have also been putting, thanks to the help of some amazing colleagues, the finishing touches on a Glossary for Drama for the senior school course. That will be a separate document to the Syllabus but will provide definitions and short explanations for key terms in the Drama course, including elaborations on terminology relevant to roles, processes, practitioners and the Elements of Drama. A big thank you to Christine Adams who did so much work on this Glossary already. Next I will be working with the Dance teachers on the Dance Glossary plus refreshing their support materials.

Don't forget too to put in your application to mark the practical and written examinations in 2012. Applications are open now and can be found on the School Curriculum and Standards Authority Website:  
[www.scsa.wa.edu.au](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au)

Also in case you've missed it, the practical examination provisional marking keys are online on the Drama extranet page (you need a login for that site) for 2012.

Feel free to ring if you have any Drama or Dance related questions. I'm sure I can find someone who has all the answers. :-)

Sven Sorenson

Curriculum and Assessment – Dance and Drama

Treasurer, DramaWest

9273 6390

### Upcoming PD

*Andy Fraser from Stage Combat Perth continues to offer a great range of workshops and incursions that can be tailored to your needs. Contact Andy:*

[stagecombatperth@yahoo.com.au](mailto:stagecombatperth@yahoo.com.au)

...And don't forget about our upcoming WACE Exams workshops for students, and the State Conference, of course!

### ACARA News

In case you were one of the unlucky people like me to miss the amazing presentation by Christine Adams and Robin Pascoe about the Australian Curriculum and the Arts at DELVE in Queensland this year, there have been tons of updates from ACARA.

Phase 1 is rolling out this July, Phase 2 the Arts Draft Curriculum including a Glossary and Cross Arts support documents will be out for consultation soon. I know the feedback and release of the final Curriculum will be on a tight schedule so I'm sure there will be lots about the Australian Curriculum – the Arts at our State Conference in August.

I have seen an early draft of the Australian Curriculum and I will be giving feedback to ACARA as a part of my role at the Authority. My feedback is enthusiastic about what I've seen so far but obviously there are things I'm keen to see clarified before the final public document is released for consultation.

Our hope is that the document will be clear to specialist teachers in high school (for that group I have no concerns) and non-specialist teachers especially in primary schools. That group I am finding I am spending the most time thinking about. I am thrilled about the direction the Australian Curriculum is taking us but know that this journey will require our support. In that regard, I am keen, willing and able.

Sven

### Spotlight On...Mt Lawley S.H.S.

Mt Lawley Senior High School has been doing some incredible, and inspiring, work with Spark\_Lab that we just HAD to share!

*SPARK\_LAB: an innovative partnership between an arts' organisation and schools.*

*Underpinning the new education program between Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA) and schools was the ECU generated research: Growing Future Innovators. Last year the five pilot schools were involved in PD, gallery tours and workshops. Mount Lawley found debaters and musicians to take up the challenge to debate with the Fuppets in a public performance at PICA.*

*Our school has a flagship Specialist Visual and Performing Arts (SVAPA) program. It has been thriving since 2001. We have had creative links with ECU through their now defunct Contemporary Performance course throughout that time.*

*Spark\_lab has been a perfect extension for our SVAPA course that encourages excellence and enjoyment across the Arts (Drama, Media, Music and Visual Arts). This year it has developed our usual Year 10 SVAPA Project class, where groups of students create a combined arts project with the mentoring of a chosen artist, into a massive undertaking.*

*The artists this year have been leading the students through workshops to explore the idea of Museum of You (th) Now. The carrot is a chance to take over a large section of PICA, to burn holes in black plastic, explore found sound, type secrets on actual type-writers, share ideas and be guided to performing at PICA for two nights in mid-June. James Berlyn is the coordinating performance artist working through Tara Daniel, the Education Program Manager at PICA, along with Tristen Parr from Decibel and Melbourne installation artist Lloyd Godman . Arts' teachers from Mount Lawley give lots of extra time to support and enrich the project.*

*The groundwork has been done and now we bring in groups from Year 8 & 9 SVAPA for movement, rhythm and video art. Year 11 Visual Art and Drama students will bring advanced student skills to the latter part of the project. We have an insanely busy seven week period ahead of us-but our school production experience at least gives us the stamina and understanding of the final push to performance.*

*Prior to our recent SVAPA UK/Paris Arts' Tour, we made contact with the Tate Modern and started working with a UK school on a Turbinegeneration project. The Tate Modern education outreach is inspiring (so much so that I am booked to attend their Worlds Together Arts' Education Conference in September). Arts' organisations working with schools access a fabulous range of experiences for students. Spark\_lab will open up to all schools once the program has been trialled and errored (sic) and we are very happy guinea pigs.*

*The Museum of Now is at PICA on 18 and 19 June.*

*Dr Dale Irving*

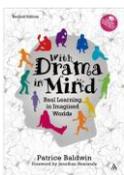
*SVAPA Coordinator*

### News for Primary

#### Primary Teachers' Network

DramaWest are in the process of establishing a primary teachers' network. If you are a primary drama specialist or generalist teacher and would like to be included in this group, please contact DramaWest through the enquiry function on our website (enter your query as a "networking request").

We are planning some exciting workshops for primary teachers at the annual state conference, including experiencing a primary drama program firsthand and some initial ideas of how to plan using the new drama curriculum.



#### **"With Drama in Mind" by Patrice Baldwin.**

A new and updated version of Patrice's book is available now. In this edition, Patrice brings together key findings from brain research and best practice. Check out Patrice's website for purchase details:

<http://patricebaldwin.com/publications/books/book6.asp>

## News for Secondary

**We just had to share this exciting opportunity from LOL! Teen Comedy with our members! FREE workshops for your students? Yes please!**

**LOL! Teen Comedy is looking for one (only) Perth high school that is keen to participate in an exciting new pilot workshop program.**

As a follow-up to Michael Connell's 'Inherit the Earth' performance, up to 25 students in years 10 and 11 are invited to attend five comedy workshops. These 90 minute workshops are hosted by professional comedy tutors and performers.

Using Michael's comedic recount of his high school years as inspiration, the workshops look at issues that the students want to explore and speak of with a sense of humour. In this way teenagers are able to explore the biggest issues in their lives in an effective, entertaining and self-expressive manner. The workshops guide them through converting their experiences into a solo or group comedy performance, which can then be performed to an audience.

**What is it:** Five 90 minute comedy workshops conducted by professional comedy tutors

**Who For:** Up to 25 students in years 10 and 11

**When:** The workshops will span from the end of Term Three (2 workshops) to the beginning of Term Four (3 workshops). The intervening school break is an opportunity for students to be in contact with tutors and work on their performance.

**Cost:** Conducting the workshops during the school day is preferable. If the workshops are conducted during the school day, there is no fee. It is negotiable to arrange the workshops for after school hours, however this will incur a fee of \$50 per student.

**Result:** Solo or group comedy performances about teen life and everyday issues that can be performed to an audience.

For more information:



LOL Invitation.doc

## News for Pre-Service

**With fourth year's out on ATP this term, our student representatives, Brooke and Conor, have some words of encouragement and advice for their fellow pre-service teachers!**

From Conor:

*Well I am about to embark on my ATP along with my other 4th year comrades and to be honest I'm a lot less stressed than I thought I would be. I've always thought of my ATP like the final exams equivalent of any other course and therefore developed a crushing fear of it, but now that it is upon me I'm just ready to take on the challenge as a whole, along with the many other challenges that will present themselves along the way. The most recurring message that I receive is that my biggest concern, which is my content knowledge, will develop and grow with time and that teaching it will become easier and easier. So with that in mind I'm looking forward to the next ten weeks as what will hopefully be the most fruitful experience of my degree so far. I've met a lot of wonderful people throughout my Uni days so far and have learnt through them that my best chance of success will come through hard work, confidence in myself, my abilities and of those around me, and not to panic. My goals for my ATP are to further develop my network of professional friendships, strengthen my confidence in my content knowledge and reassure myself that this is best career path for me and my future. I look forward to finishing my degree, entering the teaching world and furthering my education and qualifications. I'm sure I will get the opportunity to let you all know how it went and to share my rediscovered love for drama and teaching in 10 weeks' time.*

From Brooke:

*Hi everybody!*

*For this semester uni work our main focus has been on our upcoming ATP placements and what we could do to prepare for them and enter the prac feeling calm and ready.*

*Within tutorials as an entire drama cohort we have assessed where we felt our knowledge was lacking and mainly focused on updating and refreshing our knowledge of upper and lower school programming as well as assessment and the creation of assessment outlines.*

*To assist all students while we are on prac, we as class also created resource files corresponding to drama set texts within the 2 and 3 stage course. These resources included an overview of text along with lesson plans and suggested programming. These resources will no doubt be a huge helping hand for the upcoming weeks as we plan our lessons!*

*The semester has been a fantastic kick start into ATP and on behalf of the cohort I think we can confidently say that we are now well prepared to take on the ten weeks and come out of it with high results.*

*Wish us luck!*

## Regional Update

In regional news, thanks to Black Swan State Theatre Company, Tim Winton's new play *Signs of Life* is premiering in Albany in July, followed by a regional tour before heading to The State Theatre Centre for a metropolitan season. It is so exciting for regional WA to be able to see this masterpiece before the metro crown, especially considering that it is set in the regional heart of our beautiful state. Be sure to book tickets at your local theatre centre to be a part of this exciting opportunity for regional students to view live theatre in their home towns!

## Interesting Bits

**The rumours are true... very soon Drama terminology posters tailored to the Western Australian and upcoming National Curriculum will be available to purchase for your school!**

*SmartArts Resources have developed posters with clear, bright illustrations to help students understand and accurately use Drama words and terms. Designed by West Australian Drama teacher, examiner and DramaWest Committee member Libby Klysz and international cartoonist Jason Chatfield, these posters are a simple, effective and direct way to target literacy issues in the Australian Drama classroom.*

*A2 These posters cover the specific terminology used daily in Australian curricula. Topics include: Voice; Movement; Stage Geography; Performance Spaces; Design & Production Roles; Elements of Drama; Design Elements; Processes; Form & Style; and Improvisation.*

*Designed to help you meet school and systemic priorities and tick the box for improving literacy standards in the Drama classroom, these posters have been a long time coming for Australian Drama teachers. DramaWest members should keep a keen eye out for the launch of these resources around State Conference time!*

## Q & A

*Can you offer help or suggestions? Got an important question of your own? Send us your questions and responses to [newsletter@dramawest.com](mailto:newsletter@dramawest.com), and we'll put it up for discussion!*

## Classifieds/Swap Mart

*Buy, Sell or Swap your costumes/props/etc. here! We have [For Sale](#), [Wanted](#), [Free/To Swap](#) and [Miscellaneous](#) sections!*

*Email your Classifieds items to [newsletter@dramawest.com](mailto:newsletter@dramawest.com) with the subject line: CLASSIFIEDS ITEM.*

*Want us to feature your school production? Found a great resource lately? Offering workshops/PD?*

*Send us your info and suggestions to: [newsletter@dramawest.com](mailto:newsletter@dramawest.com)*



# Inspire

## APPLICATION TO PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE

Name of Presenter	
School/Institution/Organisation	
Email Address	
Mobile	
DramaWest Member (Yes or No)	
Professional Biography (This will be included in the program)	
Title of Workshop/ Seminar / Paper	
Description of Workshop/ Seminar/ Paper (max 150 words)	
Number of participants	Minimum -                      Maximum -
Special Requirements (audio, visual, technical, space)	

**Presenters' Conditions**

1. Submitting a proposal to contribute to the 2012 DramaWest State Conference may not guarantee a place in the final program.
2. Presenters will be notified by 31st **May 2012** if they have been selected to present at the conference. At that time we will confirm room and equipment requirements.
3. Presenters need to supply a biography and synopsis of their workshop for publication in the program.
4. Papers and presentations may be included in published conference proceedings.

Please forward your completed form by **25<sup>th</sup> May 2012** to

Christina Gray  
Drama Education – Building 16  
Edith Cowan University  
Bradford St  
Mt Lawley 6050

Or fax 9370 6044

Or email [c.gray@ecu.edu.au](mailto:c.gray@ecu.edu.au)

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU SIGN AND DATE THE BOX BELOW**

I have read the conditions above and agree to the terms as outlined.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you. We look forward to your valued participation in the 2012 DramaWest State Conference*



**MEDIA RELEASE – 6 March 2012**  
For immediate release

**Quadruple Premiere: Black Swan State Theatre Company, West Australian Ballet, West Australian Symphony Orchestra and West Australian Opera to perform under the same roof for 4Arts Performing Arts Education Festival**

Western Australia's four state flagship companies, Black Swan State Theatre Company, West Australian Ballet, West Australian Symphony Orchestra and West Australian Opera are coming together to perform in one location for the first time. The 4Arts Performing Arts Education Festival will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 at the State Theatre Centre of WA, featuring free student performances from each company as well as an extensive performance workshop program and a performing arts exhibition.

In its inaugural year, the 4 Arts Festival will feature the following performances and workshops:

**14 June 2012**

- 10.00am ***Looming The Memory*** by Thomas Papathanassiou  
Presented by Black Swan State Theatre Company  
*Trying to make sense of life and unravel family history, eighteen characters including a Greek grandmother, ghosts and a chicken are brought to life in an honest, sensitive and often comic 65 minutes.*
- 10.00am Workshop – West Australian Ballet
- 1.00pm ***Let's Dance!***  
Presented by West Australian Ballet  
*Ballet can tell a story, reveal an emotion and express the intangible. Be enthralled by the beauty of dance and inspired by the dancers of West Australian Ballet as they perform ballet classics and invite you to get dancing.*
- 1.00pm Workshop with Thomas Papathanassiou – Black Swan State Theatre Company

**15 June 2012**

- 10.00am ***WASO On The Road***  
Presented by West Australian Symphony Orchestra  
*Experience the wonderful world of classical music. The **WASO On The Road** show features a small ensemble performing orchestral classics that entertain, educate and inspire. Meet the musicians and explore the instruments of the orchestra with interactive have-a-go sessions.*
- 10.00am Workshop – West Australian Opera
- 1.00pm ***Discover Your Voice!***  
Presented by West Australian Opera  
*Discover the most amazing and portable musical instrument – your voice! Join West Australian Opera's rising stars for a playful performance of operatic works featuring beautiful melodies, arias, duets and trios. We may even ask you to sing along with us!*
- 1.00pm Workshop – West Australian Symphony Orchestra

The four state flagship companies - Black Swan, West Australian Ballet, West Australian Symphony Orchestra and West Australian Opera – are all committed to providing high quality performing arts experiences to students throughout Western Australia, and have agreed to present an annual 4Arts Performing Arts Education Festival in Perth for an initial four year period starting in 2012.

Black Swan's Education & Community Access Manager Alena Tompkins said: "Access to live performances plays an important role in developing the expressive, social and developmental lives of children. By providing a unique opportunity to experience the work of the four major performing arts companies in the state at the same time in one location, the 4Arts Performing Arts Education Festival will reinvigorate school performing arts communities and bring them together for a vibrant day of performances and workshops."

Over two days, performing arts students in WA will have the unique opportunity to see world class performances by their state flagship companies for free under the one roof at the recently opened State Theatre Centre of Western Australia, as well as attend specially designed student workshops offered by each company.

Schools will be able to be to organise Performing Arts department excursions, with opportunities for Drama, Dance and Music Departments to join together for a day of industry connection and collaboration. Teachers will benefit from the chance to participate in industry workshops alongside their students, which can be used towards their WACOT requirements for professional learning. Every attending teacher will receive a combined Education Resource that includes each company's supporting teaching resources.

The WA Performing Arts Museum will transform the Studio Underground Foyer into a temporary exhibition space dedicated to the history of performing arts in Western Australia.

## How to book tickets and workshops

### Performance Tickets

Teachers can reserve their desired performance(s) easily through the BOCS Ticketing Group bookings department on (08) 9321 6831. The performance tickets are free (BOCS booking fee may apply), but capped at 50 tickets per school per performance.

### Workshops

Teachers can book workshops directly with the respective company, by contacting the respective Education Managers:

Black Swan State Theatre Company:	Alena Tompkins, <a href="mailto:alena@bsstc.com.au">alena@bsstc.com.au</a>
West Australian Ballet:	Deborah Robertson, <a href="mailto:drobertson@waballet.com.au">drobertson@waballet.com.au</a>
West Australian Symphony Orchestra:	Prue Ashurst, <a href="mailto:ashurstp@waso.com.au">ashurstp@waso.com.au</a>
West Australian Opera:	Terasa Letizia, <a href="mailto:education@waopera.asn.au">education@waopera.asn.au</a>

The 4Arts Performing Arts Education Festival is proudly supported by Lotterywest, ArtsEdge and the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia.

## ENDS

### Media enquiries can be directed to:

#### **Nancy Hackett**

Marketing & Sponsorship Manager, Black Swan State Theatre Company  
State Theatre Centre of WA, Level 1, 182 William Street, Perth WA 6000  
Tel: +61 8 6212 9303    Mob: +61 404 006 412    Email: [nancy@bsstc.com.au](mailto:nancy@bsstc.com.au)    Web: [www.bsstc.com.au](http://www.bsstc.com.au)

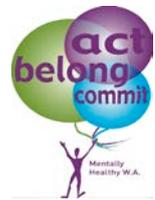


Department of Culture and the Arts  
Department of Education





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## High School IncurSION: Inherit the Earth

*A comedy show about surviving high school and following your dreams*

Join comedian, harmonica player and nerd Michael Connell as he relives his High School years. *Inherit the Earth* tells the story of how Michael survived the pressures of High School to achieve his dream of becoming a comedian.

Year 10 and 11 students are invited to Michael Connell's *Inherit the Earth*. In his one-man show Michael relives the highs and lows of his high school years and his journey in achieving his dream of being a comedian. He shares his experience of bullying, girlfriends, being liked, self image and self esteem. Michael seeks to reflect a teens life by entertaining and inspiring students and finally exploring what it took for him, and by extension the audience, to reach beyond and find their goals in life.

His use of humour makes it easily accessible for the students. They will laugh at his issues, attitude and challenges and relate to it themselves.



*Inherit the Earth* is part of the Wild West Comedy Festival's **LOL! Teen Comedy** program. This program aims to communicate directly with teens and explore daily issues that they experience. LOL! Teen Comedy strives to bring a sense of humour to teen experiences in such a way that they can become an entertaining topic of insight and expression.

In 2011 a total of 380 students attended 'Inherit the Earth'.

*"I was pleased that my class had the opportunity to participate. The theme of the show was particularly relevant to many of the students in my class and I am sure that Michael's story has been inspirational to them. Opportunities for these particular students to reflect on their behaviour towards others and their attitudes towards learning are rare and ought to be nurtured. The fact that he was singlehandedly able to maintain the attention of two whole year groups full of our trickiest bickies for almost an hour speaks to the level of engagement in the room. Thanks again for this opportunity"*

Mark Limage  
Science Teacher, Balcatta Senior High School

*We wanted to do something special for our year 12 students just before they bunkered down for 2 weeks of exams. Something to take their minds off the everyday pressure of being a year 12 student. Michael was booked for May 26 and he did not disappoint. Michael scored a laugh from our year 12 students within the first 20 seconds. From that point on his performance was hilarious, intelligent, articulate and relevant. The students responded immediately to his humour and style. Michael got the laughs and also carried his message across. His school years were tough and he dealt with that through being funny; not by sarcasm, but genuine comedy. He is now living his dream and I encourage schools to book Michael, sit back and appreciate the laughs and forget about stress for 60 minutes.*

Murray Williams  
Manager Student Services, Greenwood SHS, Perth WA

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Due to the overwhelming positive response for 'Inherit the Earth' Incursion we will bring Michael Connell back to up to ten Perth high schools in 2012.

- Who for: Students in year 10 and 11
- When: August 2012
- Time: Scheduled around your timetable
- Duration: 45 minutes & 15 minutes Q&A (shorter version if necessary)
- Where: Your school
- Cost: \$550 (includes GST). The performance is open for any number of students to attend.
- Requirements: Theatre or performance space (not gym).  
Microphone attached to PA system

You can view a sample of Michael Connell performing to high school students at this YouTube address:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUc7Ez3NDO8>

**Curriculum links:**

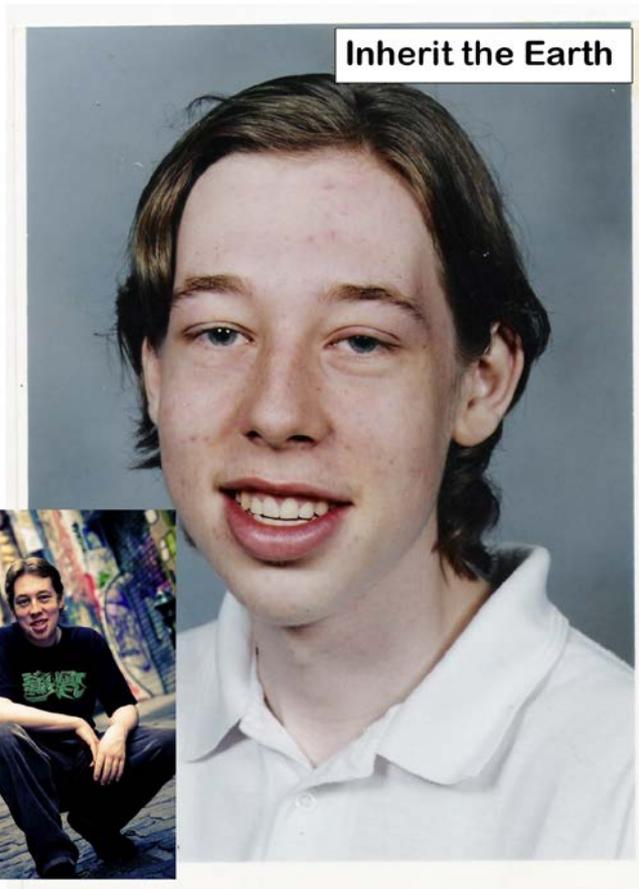
The Arts – Art Ideas, Arts Responses, Arts Skills and Processes, Arts in Society

English – Viewing, Listening and Speaking

Health – Interpersonal Skills, Self-Management Skills

Society and Environment - Investigation, Communication and Participation, Culture

To register your interest in 'Inherit the Earth' or for more information regarding this incursion, please contact the Wild West Comedy Festival's Workshops Manager, Helen Buckingham, at [workshops@wildwestcomedy.com.au](mailto:workshops@wildwestcomedy.com.au) or on 0410 821 807.



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## Invitation to Be Involved in LOL! Teen Comedy's Pilot Project

LOL! Teen Comedy is looking for one (only) Perth high school that is keen to participate in an exciting new pilot workshop program.

As a follow-up to Michael Connell's 'Inherit the Earth' performance, up to 25 students in years 10 and 11 are invited to attend five comedy workshops. These 90 minute workshops are hosted by professional comedy tutors and performers.

Using Michael's comedic recount of his high school years as inspiration, the workshops look at issues that the students want to explore and speak of with a sense of humour. In this way teenagers are able to explore the biggest issues in their lives in an effective, entertaining and self-expressive manner. The workshops guide them through converting their experiences into a solo or group comedy performance, which can then be performed to an audience.

- What is it:** Five 90 minute comedy workshops conducted by professional comedy tutors
- Who For:** Up to 25 students in years 10 and 11
- When:** The workshops will span from the end of Term Three (2 workshops) to the beginning of Term Four (3 workshops). The intervening school break is an opportunity for students to be in contact with tutors and work on their performance.
- Cost:** Conducting the workshops during the school day is preferable. If the workshops are conducted during the school day, there is no fee.  
It is negotiable to arrange the workshops for after school hours, however this will incur a fee of \$50 per student.
- Result:** Solo or group comedy performances about teen life and everyday issues that can be performed to an audience.

To nominate your High School for the Pilot Workshop or for more information please contact the Wild West Comedy Festival's Workshops Manager, Helen Buckingham, at [workshops@wildwestcomedy.com.au](mailto:workshops@wildwestcomedy.com.au) or on 0410 821 807 ☺

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