



E-Newsletter Issue #3

February, 2011

Contents:

- From the President
- National Conference Update
- What's On...
- Curriculum Updates
- Upcoming PDs
- ACARA
- For the Primary Teacher
- For the Secondary Teacher
- For the Pre-Service Teacher
- Interesting Bits
- Q & A
- Classifieds/Swap Mart

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From the Presidents...

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a really relaxing holiday and that you have a stunning 2011.

The DramaWest AGM was held on January 24. What follows is from the presidents' report.

What a year we had in 2010! DramaWest greatly increased our PD events. We remain one of the smallest associations in Australia and we need to keep building our numbers and finances so that we can offer even more quality support for all WA drama teachers. With this in mind and following a very successful one day conference in 2009, it was decided that the best way to generate support was to run more activity; so we did. This included:

- Sponsorship of Performing Arts Perspectives
- A half day assessment seminar for beginning teachers
- A one day event titled 'How To Do Well in the Drama Exam' for teachers and accompanying students
- Representation at ACARA one day meeting National Consultation Forum to give feedback on the Arts Initial Advice Paper.
- DramaWest state conference, Rehearsal for the National Conference
- Meeting to gather feedback to ACARA in relation to the Draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: The Arts. The December 9th DramaWest feedback was submitted
- Collaboration with the other arts professional associations to bring John O'Toole to WA for a Combined Arts Forum
- Attended a special meeting in Sydney to collate the Drama Australia feedback to ACARA.
- E newsletters published in November and December
- Huge work by the committee on the Drama Australia National Conference: Spaces of Performance

The 'How To Do Well in the Drama Exam' day will be expanded to two separate days: Practical July 21 and Written July 22 2011. These days are primarily for the students but teachers are welcome to observe. We will also repeat the half day workshop on curriculum and assessment for beginning and returning teachers of years 11 and 12 WACE drama.

The committee has been working hard to bring our members a fantastic National Conference but there is so much work to do. The working on and/or attending this conference is a great CV and skills development opportunity. All of us feel that we are being challenged to move outside our comfort zone and learn more new skills each day. It is not easy at all but it is so rewarding and worthwhile. Each of the committee members has a special responsibility and we cannot speak highly enough of their dedication and efforts. Similarly we appreciate the offers from members, life members and past committee members. But there is so much to do. We very much want to welcome more of our members to the working committee. This is a big event and we want to share the joy.

The co-presidents Christina Gray and Christine Adams sincerely thank the committee for a huge year's work. All are very valued and appreciated. In particular we must thank Sven Sorenson for his support at all times as secretary and looking after our finances. Thanks to Jude for all her work and support of DramaWest. Some of our key committee members had to stand down from their positions due to promotions or family illness and that is how it is. Committees of not for profit organisations must necessarily be fluid and ever evolving. Everyone who volunteers to work on the DramaWest committee has contributed in some major way to our success in 2010 and we thank them.

Most importantly, we thank the members who made it all worthwhile. Thank you so much everyone for coming to the conference and the PD days. Thank you for your feedback and ideas. You make it all worthwhile.

Christina Gray and Christine Adams

The National Conference Update



We are very excited, and just a little bit nervous, as there are only a few weeks to the *Spaces of Performance* Drama Australia National Conference, hosted by DramaWest (March 31st, April 1st and April 2nd)! There will be a wealth of workshops, papers, performances, projects and fabulous networking opportunities to be had. All at DramaWest have been working hard over the holidays to make this happen for you.

As we write, the new State Theatre Centre of Western Australia is open for the public to have a 'look see'. We can't wait to see it, and we will be one of the first community groups to be there!

In line with the *Spaces of Performance* theme we have negotiated a Triangle Partnership through the great work of Karen Herrman at ArtsEdge and the education officers at the Art Gallery of WA, the Alexander Library and the Western Australian Museum. This conference will genuinely engage with the spaces of the Cultural Centre.

Christine Lovering is taking care of everything related to our fabulous keynote speaker Patrice Baldwin. She will also present other workshops during her stay. Patrice, one of the key drama teaching specialists in the world, has just worked on the curriculum for primary in the UK. Her books about how to turn around schools through drama are also highly regarded.

Have you checked out her website yet? <http://patricebaldwin.com>

More specifically, here you will find a page of excellent articles about her philosophy, approach and work:
http://www.patricebaldwin.com/Downloads/drama_winter08_pp5-11.pdf

As well as being secretary and looking after our finances, Sven is the boss of a very special forum of Australian Playwrights hosted by Peter Holland. Do tell other teachers about the conference, as there will be excellent PD opportunities for all drama teachers, and for primary teachers too.

The full cost of the conference for early bird full members of DramaWest is \$480. There are a number of ways to attend and appropriate prices. The cost of the conference is tax deductible, and you will directly gain WACOT credits. Also think about asking for support from your shire or P and C. The full range of costs can be found on the conference website: <http://spacesofperformance2011.com>

Sponsorship and effective marketing are our next two big challenges. And then there is you! Please come to the conference and make it fabulous. It will be some years before a conference of this size can be presented in WA for WA teachers.

What's On...

...In Schools



Barking Gecko has a range of fantastic shows on offer for incursions this year. See our [News for Primary Teachers](#) section below, or contact Asher Brown (08 9380 3086/ asher@barkinggecko.com.au) for more information.

...In the Community

Performing Arts Perspectives

March 8th & 9th 2011

7pm

His Majesty's Theatre, 825 Hay St, Perth W.A.

Tickets \$18.00

Bookings @ BOCS ticketing: Contact BOCS Ticketing on (08) 9484 1133 or visit <http://www.bocsticketing.com.au>

Purchase your tickets now to the annual sell-out performing arts showcase.

Tickets to the popular sell-out Performing Arts Perspectives showcase for 2011 are now on sale. For the very first time this annual showcase of secondary students' talent will be presented across two nights to meet ticket demands of recent years.

However don't expect you will be able to purchase your ticket at the door - the event is still likely to sell out across both nights, so make sure you purchase your ticket now!

Curriculum Updates

www.curriculum.wa.edu.au

The Curriculum Council is conducting assessment seminars for new and inexperienced teachers of WACE courses. These will be combined -arts and will focus on procedures and documentation. There are two modules both held after school from 4pm to 5.30pm. The first module is about Preparing the required documentation /procedures and the second module is about marking and grading. These will be held in March and teachers will register online through the Curriculum Council site: www.curriculum.wa.edu.au

In April there will be seminars for all courses in regard to the Standards Package that includes the excellent and satisfactory answers to all the questions in the written paper. The 2009 Standards Package for Drama is currently available online on the extranet. **Have you got a login?** If you don't or have lost it or forgotten it that is no problem just hit the button and let the IT people know and they will assist you. Surprisingly few people have even read last year's standards package. Surprising, because this is a brilliant resource to use with your students!

Attendance at these seminars is not compulsory (no funding for relief) and you have to register online. The generic seminars for beginning teachers are after school but the others will be during the day so you may need to organise relief.

Can't find what you want? Need some help? Contact Christine Adams 92736390 or Christine.adams@curriculum.wa.edu.au
Christine is at the Curriculum Council Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and checks emails every day.

Upcoming PD



WACE DRAMA COURSE UNPACKED - SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26TH

Ideal for beginning or returning teachers of WACE Drama. Pre-service teachers and others looking for a refresher welcome too!

Saturday 26th February, 10 - 12.30

Edith Cowan University Building 16 Room 117

\$25 DramaWest members

\$100 non-members

ECU students- contact Christina Gray

Contact us via email to register: contact@dramawest.com.au

Content: The morning will unpack the Drama syllabus so that you can be confident of covering all aspects of the course.

WACOT accredited

ATO tax deduction

Some important notes:

The Curriculum Council is conducting assessment seminars for new and inexperienced teachers of WACE courses. These will be combined -arts and will focus on procedures and documentation. There are two modules both held after school from 4pm to 5.30pm. The first module is about Preparing the required documentation /procedures and the second module is about marking and grading. These will be held in March and teachers will register online through the Curriculum Council site: www.curriculum.wa.edu.au. The DramaWest half day workshop will focus specifically on the Drama syllabus. **Beginning and/or inexperienced teachers are strongly encouraged to enrol in both the Curriculum Council seminars and the DramaWest workshop.**

Membership included: *If you are attending the workshop as a non-member, unless you direct us otherwise, DramaWest will count the extra \$75 as your membership fee for 2011. This means that you can register for the National Conference as a member!*

WACOT recognises DramaWest as a Professional Development Provider. This and any other professional development you register for and complete can be credited to your WACOT file directly. All you need to do is supply us with your WACOT number and complete the PD.



Stage Combat Perth

Andy will be offering PD on Tuesday, February 22nd (Venue: Hale School), focusing on Found Weapons and Stick Fighting, with a half day devoted to each.

Found Weapons explores the use of ordinary, everyday objects which, in the right dramatic context, can be used as a weapon in order to further character and story. Sticks are an incredibly versatile weapon suitable for a variety of performance styles. This session will cover basic techniques and choreography.

Found Weapons will run in the morning session (10-12:30) whilst Stick Fighting will take place in the afternoon (1:00-3:30). Morning and afternoon tea will be provided and lunch will be served for those attending the Full Day.

If you require any further information or would like to make a booking, please e-mail stagecombatperth@yahoo.com.au or ring 0417-980-366. There is additional information on the Stage Combat Perth website: [Stage Combat Perth](http://StageCombatPerth).



Spontaneous Insanity's Improvisation Courses

After the sell-out success of unscripted theatre production, IN A NEW YORK MINUTE, Spontaneous Insanity kicks off its 12th year with two intensive improvisation courses, led by Glenn Hall.

ACTING FOR IMPRO ([click here for more information](#))

Drawing on the philosophies and work of improvisation exponents including Viola Spolin and Stanislavski, through to the techniques used by filmmaker Mike Leigh, ACTING FOR IMPRO will inspire the improviser in you, whilst honing your acting and stagecraft skills. Improvisation experience is a pre-requisite for this course.

12.30pm – 5.30pm, Sundays 13, 20 & 27 February, 2011

SPONTANEITY ([click here for more information](#))

Perfect for those just starting on their improvisation journey, SPONTANEITY covers the philosophies, theory, language, skills and basic building blocks of improvisation, explored through exercises, games and discussion. Designed to encourage fearlessness, commitment, creativity, collaboration, and fun.

12.30pm – 5.30pm, Sundays 13, 20 & 27 March, 2011

Whether you're passionate or just a little curious about impro, you won't want to miss Spontaneous Insanity's improvisation courses at Subiaco Arts Centre, in February and March, 2011.

Please don't hesitate to contact me to register your place, or for further information. But do be quick, places are strictly limited and are already filling fast.



Barking Gecko Workshops

Skilling up our Teachers

As part of Barking Gecko's ongoing commitment to service the needs of teachers, the company is offering two new professional learning workshops. The Primary Teachers Toolbox Series is designed for teachers wanting to develop their skills in teaching drama. Over ten interactive sessions, facilitated by leading industry specialists, teachers will be introduced to drama concepts and forms and return to the classroom inspired with practical activities they can build upon. For high school teachers Barking Gecko's Artistic Director, John Sheedy shares his experience as a director with WAAPA and the NIDA Open Program, in a practical Master Class exploring new approaches to classic texts (Shakespeare, Brecht and Miller). Both workshops can be used as evidence for as professional learning for WACOT.

For more information contact Barking Gecko's Education & Workshop Coordinator, Asher Brown on 08 9380 3086/ asher@barkinggecko.com.au

ACARA News

The DramaWest feedback to ACARA was submitted on December 9th. ACARA has announced that they received more than 400 applications for writers and readers of the Arts curriculum and consequently the timelines for the whole process have been extended. ACARA have not provided further detail. Some of the state jurisdictions have decided to delay their submission of feedback so ACARA cannot process the feedback until all of those have been received. We wait.....

News for Primary

Do you have an incredible idea for an arts project but need money to get it off the ground?

Then the Young People and the Arts funding program is for you!

If you are an artist or arts worker aged 26 or under, or creating work aimed at young people aged 26 and under, you should consider applying under the **Development** or **Distribution & Marketing** categories. These categories can support the development and creation of new work, professional and skills development, or the marketing of your work to new audiences.

If you are 29 or under you could apply for the **\$30,000 Young People and the Arts International Scholarship**. This grant assists one outstanding artist or arts worker to study at an overseas institution.

The **deadline** for all applications is **25 February 2011** so contact the Young People and the Arts Project Officer today.

Daavid Anderson
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Inspiring new works for students

In 2011 Barking Gecko will be creating two stunning stage adaptations from two of Western Australia's most celebrated authors, Shaun Tan and Craig Silvey. In Term 3 Perth schools and those within the Great Southern region, will be treated to a beautiful stage version of Shaun Tan's *The Red Tree*, a simple and richly complex exploration of sadness and hope, promoting a positive mental health message for young people. The innovative production will feature an imaginative set design and live music score. In Term 4 Craig Silvey's heart-warming short story *The Amber Amulet* will come to life on stage and tour venues throughout Perth, Mandurah and Margaret River. Twelve year old peacekeeper Liam McKenzie and his super beagle Ritchie, will capture hearts in this funny and moving tale of superheros, families and friendships.

For more information contact Barking Gecko's Education & Workshop Coordinator, Asher Brown on 08 9380 3086/ asher@barkinggecko.com.au

News for Secondary

Do you have an incredible idea for an arts project but need money to get it off the ground?

Then the Young People and the Arts funding program is for you!

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News for Pre-Service

The DramaWest and Curriculum Council WACE Drama course PD's are coming up very soon. We recommend that all beginning/inexperienced teachers attend both of these events! See the [Upcoming PD](#) section above for more information.

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Interesting Bits

Warm-up of the Moment

Evolution

Submitted by C. Gray

Stand with arms over heads in an oval formation. We begin as Eggs. Walk around to find other Eggs, play a simple round of 'paper, scissors, rock'.

The winner evolves to the next stage which is an Ape (curved arms hanging low by sides with clenched fists). They need to find another Ape to play a round of 'paper, scissors, rock'.

The winner evolves into a Human (walking around with arms naturally by their sides). They need to find another Human to play 'paper, scissors, rock'.

The winner evolves into a Drama Teacher and walks to the side of the room with their arms raised above their heads.

Each time a person loses a round of 'paper, scissors, rock' they become an Egg and must start from scratch.

Websites of the Moment

DramaWest is now on Twitter! Follow us at <http://twitter.com/#!/DramaWestWAInc>

Our website is now up to date and full of useful resources and handy links! www.dramawest.com

This handy little website outlines how to change style sets in Microsoft Word, helping you create templates that suit your needs:

<http://www.karlencommunications.com/adobe/SwappingStyleSetsWord.pdf>

Q & A

Got an important or interesting question? Send us your question to 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!

MISCELLANEOUS

DramaWest are searching for Perth residents willing to host country participants for the duration of the National Conference. If you have some spare room, and you are willing and able to accommodate, please contact Dramawest. Email info@dramawest.com.

Attention all country drama teachers:

I am aiming to set up a web of communication between all drama teachers in country areas. The purpose, I hope, will be to provide links and support for each other, as well as opportunities to share resources and guest artists/performers. If you are interested in participating please contact me at socallaghan@gegs.wa.edu.a A.S.A.P. Thank you, Sinead O'Callaghan

Email your Classifieds items to 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