



DRAMA NEW SOUTH WALES

Drama NSW
Annual Report
January 2016 – December 2016

Contents

President’s Report	3
Vice President Business and Finance’s Report	4
Auditor’s Report	6
Drama Australia Liaison Officer’s Report.....	6
Vice President Communications Report.....	7
_Toc447287541Vice President Membership Report.....	9
Vice President Professional Learning Report.....	10

President's Report

Drama NSW had a successful and exciting 2016. Our association has continued to flourish. The clear roles and responsibilities in each portfolio, established in 2015, has meant that our team are able to continue to specialise in delivering quality outcomes to our members.

During 2016, Drama NSW has undergone a great deal of change at the Executive level. Our Vice President of Professional Learning, Julian Kennard, stepped down from his position at the end of 2016. Julian's dedication, expertise and detailed understanding of his portfolio are a great loss. Hannah Brown, our Vice President of Communications and DALO has also stepped down to experience the wonderful adventures of Drama teaching in the UK. Of course, the resignation of John Saunders, the previous president of Drama NSW, was a tremendous blow to our association. John's leadership of Drama NSW came at a time of great change to our association and his steady, calm influence and passion for Arts Education is the reason why Drama NSW remains such a dynamic association. We welcome Tamara Sweetman into the role of Vice President of Professional Learning and Victoria Stephenson into the role of Vice President of Communications. They are continuing the legacy of outstanding work in their respective portfolios. I am honoured to step into John's shoes as he takes on his new role as President of Drama Australia and we welcome Ellen Osborne into the role of Vice President of Membership and Administration.

Towards the end of 2016, the Executive of Drama NSW have focused on developing a professional learning annual plan for 2017: revising publications and communications, investigated how we can work with industry partners and explored new ways of engaging our members whilst building on the successes of the previous year.

Our 2016 State Conference, *Create, Innovate, Connect*, held at The Kings School in May, was a dynamic professional learning experience for our members. Held over two days, delegates were able to immerse themselves in the latest pedagogical developments in Arts Education, with presentations from academics, teachers and industry professionals. We are grateful to The Kings School for their generous donation of their facilities for the benefit of Drama educators in NSW.

Our Group Performance workshop in April, presented by Eva Brown, and our collaboration with the Arts Unit and Complicite late in 2016 were highly successful. We were thrilled to offer two regional scholarships of up to \$1000 to two Drama NSW members as part of our commitment to support the work of regional educators in NSW. Congratulations to Mark Friend from Bega High School and to Jenny Sullivan from Gunnedah High School!

The Professional Learning Team are planning two exciting initiatives for later in 2017 in order to build on the successes of 2016. These include an Individual Project Day and an HSC Written Examination Workshop. These are already being advertised on social media and will be designed for students and their teachers. We would like to thank the Ascham School for its donation of their school facilities for the benefit of our members.

During 2016, our Communications Portfolio has continued to explore the enormous possibilities generated by social media, under the leadership of both Hannah Brown and Victoria Stephenson.

DRAMA NSW: The Educational Drama Association of NSW Inc.
Annual Report January 2016 – December 2016

The release of our first E – Magazine at the end of 2016 heralds the beginning of new ways of supporting our membership with practical and quick tips for educators in the classroom. The use of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter has continued to provide immediate connection with our colleagues. Most excitingly, the end of 2016 saw the Communications Team begin work on a new, user - friendly website to allow our membership to access the benefits of our association far more effectively. Our professional journal, JEDA, has gone from strength to strength. Rachael Jacobs, having worked tirelessly to reinvigorate JEDA, leaves it in the capable hands of Josephine Spinks for 2017.

It has been an enormous privilege to lead the Drama NSW Committee over the past six months. I must thank the extraordinary Committee for their unwavering support. Special thanks must go to the wonderful Vice Presidents who I have had the honour of working with over the past six months. Natasha Beaumont, Tamara Sweetman, Victoria Stephenson and Ellen Osborne are an amazing source of energy and passion. You are a wonderful team and I could not have done my duty as President without your support and guidance. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Members of Drama NSW. We have a wonderful community of Drama Educators in this state and we must continue to work together to support each other's practice and to ensure the place of Drama in the NSW Curriculum continues to be recognised in schools and the wider community.

Kelly Young
President

Vice President Business and Finance's Report

Drama NSW: The Educational Drama Association of New South Wales is a state association deeply engaged with providing professional learning and an active online and face-to-face professional sharing network for Drama practitioners across New South Wales. Drama NSW is a member association of the Professional Teachers' Council NSW and employs their administrative services to assist with general operations.

In 2016, our income total was \$89,670 and total expenses \$73,359 compared to 2015 total income of \$196,014 and total expenses \$184,481. The higher income and expenditure of 2015 was in accordance with Drama NSW hosting the Game Changer international conference at National Institute of Dramatic Art.

2016 Drama NSW State Conference

The 2016 annual conference was held at The King's School Parramatta. This proved an excellent choice of venue, as the facilities were more than adequate and the setting particularly attractive. The King's School executive kindly donated their facilities over the two-day event free of cost, which further enhanced this location's appeal from a budget perspective. The total income from this event came in at \$45,119. The selling of promotional trade tables and satchels inserts providing \$4,254 of that total. Total expenses came to \$26,245 leaving an operating profit of \$18,874.

2017 Drama NSW State Conference

The 2017 state conference will be held Friday 5 and Saturday 6 May once again at the King's School Parramatta. The conference has been programmed under theme "4Cing the Future" and looks set to be a fantastic professional learning experience for all involved, with a projected financial outcome matching that of 2016. It will be reported on in detail in the 2017 Annual Report presented at the

Membership

Income raised from member subscriptions was \$35,769 compared to the previous years \$36,739. These figures do not yet reflect an increase in membership uptake at the time of the Theatre de Complicité professional development in October 2016. This offered a significant discount for Drama NSW members and being so late in 2016 the price included subscription for the *following* calendar year 2017.

Administration

Drama NSW has now phased out the use of cheques. This year an investment was made into an online credit card processing facility via our financial services provider Bendigo Bank. It was a costly initial investment of \$6,240, which also attracts monthly processing fees averaging \$13 per month. Despite the expense, this service is seen as an essential part of our vision to stay abreast of technological developments and provide our members with the most efficient service possible within our means.

The association is also in the process of opening a debit card account with Bendigo, which we will, replete with a small amount of \$2,000. This will allow Drama NSW to renew online subscriptions to services such as survey monkey, domain name rental and website hosting without using the Vice-President of Business & Finance's personal credit card. It also means committee members will be able to make large outlays on behalf of the association without having to use cover the cost temporarily with their personal funds.

Drama NSW continues to rent storage space at the Professional Teachers' Council NSW (PTC) but since their move to a new location, this expenditure has risen by close to 50%: \$8,464 in 2015 and \$12,513 in 2016. This situation is currently under review. We remain thoroughly committed to the PTC however, and are highly appreciative of their invaluable administrative support as well as their tireless work campaigning for our profession at state and federal level, and providing professional development across all sectors of the teaching community.

Increases in Expenditure

Drama NSW has outsourced monthly book keeping to Mai Mai Lin at the PTC and is benefiting from the resulting ability to generate detailed current and historical expenditure reports. This has increased booking keeping fees from \$1,680 in 2015 to \$3,315 in 2016. The association will now be able to, with the assistance of Ms. Lin, closely monitor month-on-month and year-on-year spending as general operational running costs of the association are set to rise with a projected expansion of online services, investment in international artist professional developments and provision of regional scholarships.

Website

The building and outsourced operational maintenance of an entirely new website will be a major investment for the association in 2017 but one that will significantly enrich our members' online experience with us. It will enable the association to communicate with greater efficacy and impact as well as deliver more services for the cost of subscription. The quote for stage one of the site re-build currently underway is \$5,640. The expected monthly running cost will be \$150 - \$200.

Regional Scholarships

In 2016, Drama NSW donated \$2,000 to create two regional scholarships to attend the Complicite

DRAMA NSW: The Educational Drama Association of NSW Inc.

Annual Report January 2016 – December 2016

professional development co-presented in October with the Arts Unit NSW. Our wish is to continue to provide regional scholarship opportunities each year going forward.

Collaborations with The Arts Unit

A highly advantageous professional development collaboration has developed between Drama NSW and The Arts Unit NSW. We have co-produced two professional learning opportunities to date, with a view to programming further workshops together. Due to the high quality and profile of the presenters engaged, at times with international travel to account for, these professional developments can prove costly. Our contribution to the Complicite workshop came to \$1,478 and to the Paul Gardiner Screenwriting workshop \$590. Each suggested workshop will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, evaluating the benefits to the association in relation to financial investment required. The timing of a high profile international artist workshop towards the end of the calendar year provided a significant spike in membership renewal for the following year, an effect we must seriously consider replicating where possible going forward.

Conclusion

The association remains in a stable financial position at the end of 2016. We have begun to save money in a national conference savings account in order to save towards our next international conference. Measures are also being taken to reduce rental expenditure to help accommodate the projected rise in online operational costs and investment in high quality international professional development providers, as well as providing scholarship opportunities for members.

Natasha Beaumont

Vice President Business and Finance

Auditor's Report

Please see attached document.

Drama Australia Liaison Officer's Report

The Drama Australia Office-Bearers elected at the 2016 AGM in Adelaide were:

President - John Nicholas Saunders

Director of Finance - Sue Davis

Director of Communications and National Liaison - Jo Raphael

Director of Special Projects, Guidelines and ADEM - Lyndy Clarke

Director of Research and Monographs - Rachael Jacobs

Director of International Liaison - Colleen Roche

Director of Publications: National Journal - Madonna Stinson

Director of Marketing - Naomi Russell

Incoming president John Saunders gave a heartfelt tribute to previous president Colleen Roche, who will be continuing her wonderful contributions to our community as newly appointed Drama Australia International Liaison. The board also bade a fond farewell to long-serving administrator Alaana Shepherd, noting her outstanding work in her role and wishing her well in all future endeavors.

This AGM was held prior to Drama Australia's Inaugural Symposium "Looking Forward, Looking

DRAMA NSW: The Educational Drama Association of NSW Inc.
Annual Report January 2016 – December 2016

Back” which was held on the Magill Campus at the University of South Australia over three days, 30 September to 2 October. The event was held in association with Drama South Australia (DSA) with much organizational assistance from DSA President Giselle Becker and Drama Australia Liaison Officer David Hill. All who gathered for this symposium were privileged to gain insights into the very beginnings of our drama education community being acknowledged and galvanized into the national network we are so proud of today. The final Sunday incorporated a very special chance to commemorate the first gathering of drama teachers who created the beginnings of our foundation association NADIE forty years ago in the Adelaide Hills.

IDEA 2016

With deep regret, the IDEA conference scheduled for 2016 was cancelled, with some hopes to re-convene in Turkey in 2017. Due to ongoing political unrest, this has since been revised and IDEA 2017 is scheduled for Portugal 10th to 15th July.

National Conference 2017

The Drama Australia 2017 conference was held in Perth in collaboration with Drama West. A detailed report will be published in the Drama NSW 2017 Annual Report.

DADA and MAMA Project

Val Johnson and John O’Toole’s formidable and ongoing efforts leading the DADA and MAMA archive project were honored with a standing ovation at the DA Symposium in Adelaide. Cate Cunningham continues her wonderful work on behalf of NSW, interviewing elders in the drama education community and collecting archival resources from our storage facility at PTC. There will be a dedicated Drama Australia trade table at the 2017 conference as a chance for Cate to increase interest and awareness for this wonderful work, capturing collective wisdom and history for the coming generations.

NJ Subscriptions

NJ remains a vitally important part of the work that Drama Australia undertakes each year. The onus on all state association to drive subscription continues in earnest, as the increased cost of publication via Taylor & Francis, concurrent with NJ now being a peer-reviewed journal of high international standing, creates financial pressure on DA each calendar year. Drama NSW totalled 37 subscriptions for 2016. We are looking at ways to increase this figure for 2017.

Member Email Contact

Drama Australia has requested that all member states grant permission to share member email databases with the Drama Australia Director of Communications and National Liaison in order to contact members directly. This would occur only a handful of times each year. The workings of this will be clearly outlined using a privacy policy statement attached to each state’s membership renewal form. The Drama NSW has agreed with this request and will be evaluating its current privacy policy statement in order to allow this to go ahead, with individual member approval.

Natasha Beaumont

Drama Australia Liaison Officer

Vice President Communications

Journal

DRAMA NSW: The Educational Drama Association of NSW Inc.
Annual Report January 2016 – December 2016

Rachael Jacobs and Josephine Spinks did a wonderful job of editing our last journal, which was sent at the beginning of 2017 but retrospectively as Volume 22 No 3 2016 in order to retain the correct numbering for 2017.

Rachael Jacobs has now stepped down as journal editor, and Josephine Spinks has stepped into her role.

The journals delivered in March 2016 (actually the 2nd 2015 journal), and January 2017 (the December 2016 journal) were freshly presented with the new Drama NSW logo and colours. The second of these was focused strongly on papers and accompanying resources from the 2016 Drama NSW State Conference.

Thank you to all committee members who proof read and collated articles.

Social Media – Facebook Instagram, YouTube and Twitter

Over the last year, Drama NSW has built considerably upon its social media presence. Victoria Stephenson continued managing Drama NSW social media platforms. This includes Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Handovers are currently taking place for two platforms - Anna-Lee Russo is taking over the Instagram account, and Lisa Mumford is taking over the Facebook account.

As an association, we try to post several times a week on each platform and use Twitter mainly for events.

We currently have 1060 likes on Facebook (up from 836 this time last year), 291 followers on Instagram (up from 108 last year) and 163 on Twitter (up from 114 last year).

Increases in Social Media likes and followers tend to surge around conference time, as people share comments and photos with a designated hash tag.

Interaction on Social Media is currently of high importance due to the current website being inoperable.

Website

Victoria Stephenson is now the main person able to navigate the back end of the website and post things on the site. Unfortunately, in around November 2016, the site began glitching and crashing when any new information was added due to outdated software. The lack of technical support offered by the web hosting platform and the lack of expertise of committee members in website construction/maintenance led to the decision of creating a new website.

PTC is currently also undergoing a website overhaul and a logical choice was for Drama NSW to use the same platform for the development of our new site. The aim is to streamline systems and have numerous people trained in the running and maintenance of the website, including staff at PTC. This should ensure that when people leave the committee, the website can be maintained to a high standard.

The company designing the new Drama NSW website is Sailor Studios, and the designer is Luke Beeton. Luke has been very helpful and communicative in the design process, and has taken on board the need for a user-friendly website for both members and the committee. The new website is set to be launched in April 2017.

DRAMA NSW: The Educational Drama Association of NSW Inc.
Annual Report January 2016 – December 2016

E-publication the Drama NSW E-Magazine

2016 saw the launch of the of Drama NSW's E-Magazine. As part of Drama NSW's commitment to offering its members more resources and support for learning, the E-mag will be sent out to members electronically. Where the journal aims to give our members topical academic papers and articles, the E-mag gives teachers resources that they can use in their classroom and aims to keep them informed about curriculum updates, professional development and what is on at the theatre. The resource also aims to foster a community of practice within our organisation by sharing what our members are doing in their classroom that is innovative and new.

Two E-mags were published in 2016, one in Term 1 and one in Term 4. Sections included:

"My Top 5...", "Innovative classroom practice,"

"A regional teacher and their classroom profile..."

A lesson plan/unit of work or assessment piece

"Committee member spotlight"

The publication also included some advertisements.

It is my hope that we can increase the output to one E-mag each term in 2017 to improve membership value.

Victoria Stephenson
Vice President Communications

Vice President Administration and Membership's Report

The Drama NSW membership peaked at 298 in December 2016, with a mixed demographic spread over Primary, Tertiary and Industry sectors.

This portfolio was handed over to Ellen Osborne in September 2016. Many ideas were discussed in the final months of 2016 to plan how we could further improve our membership numbers. We will continue to look for new ways to promote membership. In 2017, we will explore forming a collaboration between our industry partners and universities to further engage our members and develop a new membership base amongst early career teachers.

Although we did not visit with our university contacts in 2016, our membership had a broader scope due to a collaborative partnership with The Arts Unit, which saw a membership spike in the latter half of the year. In conjunction with offering discounted registration to members for the Complicite workshop, Drama NSW extended any new membership uptakes associated with this event to include 2017 calendar year, as the workshop occurred late in 2016.

In 2016 we had an active presence online and in Professional Development courses where we were able to advocate for new members and highlight the benefits of our membership. Graphic newsletters were proposed as an idea that PTC can assist us with in the future, allowing us to connect with our membership and remind them about Drama NSW.

Ellen Osborne

Vice President Administration and Membership

Vice President Professional Learning's Report

Drama NSW Professional Learning has had a highly successful year with the key focus being on our Drama NSW Conference, 2016; *Create, Innovate, Connect*, held at The King's School in May 2016. We also conducted two other additional professional learning opportunities - The HSC Group Performance Workshop and Devising Theatre with Complicite (in collaboration with The Arts Unit).

The main goals of the professional learning team in 2016 were to collaborate and offer high quality, creative, innovative, practical and applicable professional learning, targeting and meeting a range of needs for teachers, beginning and experienced, primary and secondary in New South Wales. We aim to continue building on the success of the professional learning offered by Drama NSW this past year in 2017.

HSC Group Performance Workshop

2 April 2016

International Grammar School, Ultimo

This intensive professional learning course focused on how to tackle the HSC Group Performance with Year 12 students from two contrasting perspectives. The presenters were leading experienced Drama teachers who offered innovative and creative ways for teachers to engage their students in interpreting and devising the group performance.

The presenters were Michael Griffiths, Head of Drama at Knox Grammar School and Eva Brown, Head of Drama at the Rudolf Steiner School, Cape Byron. They explored how to structure the project, use movement to interpret character and ideas, as well as creating engaging narratives.

This professional learning was well attended with 29 participants and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. It was a well-timed professional learning, leading into HSC Drama teachers embarking on this process with their students in Term 2, 2016.

Drama NSW State Conference, 2016 – *Create, Innovate, Connect*

5 and 6 May 2016

The King's School

In May 2016, we held the Drama NSW State Conference: *Create, Innovate, Connect*. The conference featured over 25 various workshops, panels, presentations and keynotes from teachers, artists and academics, focusing on primary, secondary and areas of research. It had keynote presentations from Fraser Corfield (Artistic Director, ATYP), Amy Murphy and Jamie Gerlach (James Ruse Agricultural High School), Colleen Roche (President, Drama Australia) and Angela Betzian (Playwright). It also featured updates from Rosemary Gorman (BOSTES Inspector, Creative Arts) and primary pedagogy from Dr Gerald Boland (Charles Stuart University, Bathurst). In addition to the high calibre of the

DRAMA NSW: The Educational Drama Association of NSW Inc.
Annual Report January 2016 – December 2016

workshops, the conference was a great opportunity for Drama teachers to network and collaborate over twilight drinks each evening.

The conference occurred across two days. Over 175 participants from various schools across the state, local and regional areas attended. The evaluative feedback (survey data) regarding the conference was resoundingly positive, particularly in regards to the wide range of offerings, allowing teachers to choose and select workshops that best catered to their areas of development.

Thank you to the entire Drama NSW committee and in particular to the below conference team for their efforts in making the conference such a success.

The Drama NSW Conference Team:

President and Conference Co-Convenor – John Nicholas Saunders

Vice President: Professional Learning and Conference Co-Convenor – Emily Kaufling

Conference Co-Convenor – Julian Kennard

Conference Co-Convenor – Brendan Laurence

Early Career Teachers Day

22 October

This professional learning event unfortunately was cancelled due to insufficient participant numbers. Offerings for early career teachers and support for them will be evaluated by the Drama NSW committee in 2017.

Devising Theatre with Complicite

25, 26, 28 and 29 October (2 day and 1 day offerings)

The Arts Unit

This was a highly successful professional learning collaboration with The Arts Unit, featuring the international presenter, Eric Mallett, who is a world renowned, accomplished and successful theatre maker. Eric trained at Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris. His work for Complicite includes *Lionboy*, *The Street of Crocodiles*, *Mnemonic*, *The Visit*, *The Phantom Violin* and *The Lamentations of TheI*.

The courses focused on using neutral mask to create Lecoq's fundamental neutrality and movement. It also examined the elements, mime, movement analysis, chorus work, use of dramatic elements such as space, rhythm, timing, and role in devising theatre. The participants also created collaborative scenes in the style of Complicite.

This professional learning was attended with 35 participants in the two-day course, 26 participants on the 25 of October and 28 participants on the 26 October 2016. These courses received excellent feedback. Participants reported receiving practical insights for the classroom and having a specialised knowledge base for devising with movement and mime.

DRAMA NSW: The Educational Drama Association of NSW Inc.
Annual Report January 2016 – December 2016

A special thank you to Julian Kennard for leading Drama NSW Professional Learning with his creativity, collegiality and vision; and to the entire team for the highly successful and well-attended courses in 2016.

Tamara Sweetman

Vice-President Professional Learning