



Graduates and students **Mercedes Porter, Jessica Armbrust, Jamieson Koch, Ellen Hardisty, Sharna Barker, Craig I'Anson**, filmed *The Blessed* for **The Revue Factory**, written by **Liesl Hinde** and directed by **Aaron Singfield**



The Actors Workshop

Established in 1994
Queensland's 1st registered actor training organisation.

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Industry News

Film Festival for Youngsters returns bigger and better in 2010

TransLink Cine Sparks, Australia's foremost film festival for young people will return in 2010 with more free film screenings and activities for children and their families than ever before.

Running from Tuesday 27 July to Friday 6 August, *TransLink Cine Sparks*, which forms part of Queensland's premier screen culture event - the *St. George Bank Brisbane International Film Festival* - will present a diverse programme of short, feature and documentary films designed to inspire, educate and entertain young minds.

Eye of the Alumni: Kris Maric

Hard work produces *Bad Behaviour*

After Graduating from The Workshop Kris Maric decided more hard work was in order and has been busy developing her credentials as a producer – a field not too many women are involved in. Currently she is helping distribute John Jarratt's latest feature film *Savages Crossing*, also starring **Craig McLachlan**,

Sacha Horler, Jessica Napier and Chris Haywood. Riveting, raw and visually powerful...*Savages Crossing* is an adrenalin charged psychological thriller of mind games, murder and deceit. It opened in cinemas nationwide in May this year. Kris appreciates how her training has helped her understand how actors operate, and how to deal with them effectively from a creative and producing perspective. She says: "I am always surprised as to how many creatives have little understanding/appreciation of the acting craft. The training at TAW I felt definitely helped me out in that capacity." She backs Lyn's philosophy that 'luck is when opportunity meets preparation', and she believes "you should look for opportunities every-where ... You should keep on preparing yourself forever! If you are passionate about this industry you learn as much as you can about your own craft, but don't be afraid to learn about what everyone else does to contribute to making a performance piece get out there.... It's a collaborative effort whether it's film/tv/music/theatre requiring all hands on deck and a bit of group magic to pull it off with pizzazz." This year has been particularly busy for Kris with her producing 4 different feature films and marketing & distributing another two – most challenging amidst all that is time management and discipline. Currently Kris is in post production on two films, one called *The Professional Idiot* and the other titled *Bad Behaviour* is another project with **John Jarratt**. Kris says she is inspired by people who surprise her creatively, and also those in our industry, who have decorum, good work ethic and are great at what they do. "I have big love for **John Jarratt**, who I have been doing a bunch of work with of late. He is a generous guy, hard worker and also hilarious with a penchant for bad jokes." She continues: "I am constantly learning. You have to be innovative constantly. But hey any challenge is good - It builds character."



Kris Maric and John Jarratt
Photo courtesy of Gold Coast Style

Best in Show



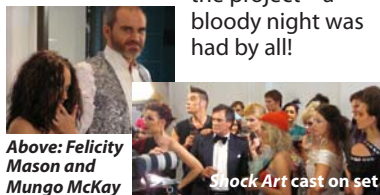
Stage Combat teacher **Niki-J Witt** is flat out currently fighting directing: **Fat Pig** for the **Queensland Theatre Company**,

Macbeth for **Griffith University** and **Romeo and Juliet** for the **Harvest Rain Intern Program**. She has just finished playing dual roles as **Titania/Hippolyta/Snug** in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** at **Centre Stage**. Niki also performs regularly as a singer songwriter at **Checochos**, on

Hardgrave Rd. West End and is in the final stages of mastering her EP/demo. Busy busy Niki!

Graduate **Felicity Mason** wrote and produced her short film **Shock Art** directed by **Dan MacArthur**, reuniting her with **Undead** co-star, TAW graduate and teacher **Mungo McKay**. Many Workshop students and graduates also participated in

the project – a bloody night was had by all!



Above: Felicity Mason and Mungo McKay

Shock Art cast on set

Friends of the Workshop

Graduate **Rita Artman** and Director / Writer **Jo Bauer** have wrapped shooting their feature **The Killage** for **ArtSpear Entertainment** and are now busy in post – many students and graduates participated in the production including **Rita Artmann, Cameron Sowden, Carmel Savage, Jess Thomas-Hall, Dryden Bingham and Johancee Theron**. Other cast are played by **Joseph Bauer, Laura Jane Turner, Meisha Lowe, Andrew O'Sullivan, Daniel Johnston, Mark Theodossiou**.



The Noticeboard

Our February featured artist **Emelia Burns** and TAW founder and Principal **Lyn Kidd** have joined forces in the past few years to build a school in Africa. Situated about 4 hours from Ghana's capital Accra, it was clear to Emelia when she visited her family there in 2007 that the school was in desperate need of classrooms. At that time, over 200 students

were being taught in only 3 classrooms. It was then that Emelia realised that rather than buying books and pens as originally planned, for \$200 dollars, she could buy 10 bags of cement, (the most expensive item when building in this area) and with the help of passionate locals, they were able to build a much needed classroom. When Emelia returned to Australia and shared this news with Lyn, she was motivated to help. They soon realised that with about \$1000, they could build the school a much needed hall for all the students to congregate in. After two years, the buildings are completed, and amazingly, it seems the local government has finally taken notice of the outside help, and is now funding the building of a completed school with enough classrooms to accommodate the growing number of students. What an inspiration!

In the Works

- * Graduate **Glenn Keogh**, our featured artist in last month's newsletter has since landed a 3 year contract for a recurring role on American primetime show **Sons of Anarchy**. Terrific news Glenn!
- * Graduate **Jacqui Duncan** recently travelled to the US and during that time was cast in the new **Adam Lambert** film clip, shot in LA. On her return home she has been **nominated for Best Actress at this year's QNFA's** for her work in the short film musical **You Tonight**.
- * TAW Past student **Emma Joleen**, who is also a graduate of the QLD Conservatorium and holds a Bachelor of Music and The University of QLD, has been dividing her time between Los Angeles and Australia. Most recently in the USA, Emma was **Production Director/Manager, Guest Conductor and Singer** for the world music premiere of the **"Pangean Orchestra"** in the **Phoenix Symphony Hall, Arizona**. This was an immigrant orchestra comprised of musicians from all around the world (India, Ireland, Iran, Afghanistan, China, Japan, England and Canada to name just a few) who came together to create harmony playing their ancient indigenous instruments.
- * Graduate **Damien Rider** was cast in Channel Seven's **City Homicide** as an SIS Agent.
- * It's been a busy month for short films with many graduates and students appearing in Griffith Film School projects. **Taryn Madeley, Sophie Jordan and Brent Dunner** worked on **Stop Movie Monster Abuse**. **Mercedes Porter** filmed **Sasquatch Apocalypse**; **Sally Richards** filmed **The Horror of The Beach Monster**; and **Allanah Collins, Taryn Madeley, Daniel Frawley, David Mines, Ryan Veivers and Niki J Witt** filmed **Nerd**, all for Griffith University.
- * Students **Jane Fairbairn, Brent Dunner, Sarah Pember, and Frankie Oatway** filmed Frankie's self penned short **No Love for Harry**. Frankie can currently be seen in Channel Nine's **Underbelly - The Golden Mile**. You can view his website at: www.frankieoatway.com