



Rob Griffiths

**SILO** written and directed by **Warrick Fraser** and featuring **Rob Griffiths** and **Mungo McKay** has won Best War Film at the **American International Film Festival**. Congratulations!



# The Actors Workshop

Established in 1994

Queensland's 1st registered actor training organisation.

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## Industry News

### The Matilda Awards are here again!

All members of Brisbane's theatre community are invited to attend. This year, attendees will be asked to make a gold coin donation upon entry at the awards, monies raised will go to the Actors' and Entertainers' Benevolent Fund, which is assisting members affected by the floods. The awards are publicised widely in the media and play a major role in raising Brisbane people's awareness of the vibrant and exciting cultural life of their city. The Matildas will be held on Monday March 7 at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts. For more information go to: <http://www.matildaawards.com.au/>



MATILDA AWARDS

## Eye of the Alumni: Damien Power

### Going solo with his cracked funny bone...

The youngest of a family of 4 boys, Damien Power sees his foray into stand-up comedy as an inevitable consequence of his life growing up in what he calls "a weird family" and it is his family life that provides the material for his act. As a strong supporter of the Brisbane comedy scene, Damien is stoked to be performing his first solo show in the town where he started out on his comedy career, as part of the **Brisbane Comedy Festival** this month. As well as his family, Damien credits his love of comedy to playing in Improvisation classes at The Workshop, and from there he started doing Impro at Pubs which led to his creating his own stand-up act. He says "finding the funniest material possible that is also original and meaningful is a hard criteria to fill." And notes the challenges of working in front of a sometimes rowdy, live audience: "If someone high on drugs takes the microphone off you while you're performing... let them have it. They want it more than you. Don't fight it. Whatever they say will be funnier than anything you've prepared." Taking it in his stride, Damien has proved his mettle and was a Finalist in the **Melbourne International Comedy Festival Raw Comedy Competition** and won the **Legends of Laughter Competition**.



His alternative style – peppered with improvised characterisations, and off-the cuff anecdotes makes him unpredictable every time he has a mic in his hand. He says: "The show is constantly evolving I try new stuff all the time, I guess it's just picking the best material and structuring it. I have been pushing myself more and therefore I have certainly had some failures. Like at the Cooloongatta Hotel at the start of the year I sucked so bad people started yelling their own jokes out, I lost my temper at these bogs and started yelling things like go back home to your meth labs, then the whole crowd applauded even the bogs, like that's what they wanted. Weird." Damien is looking forward to doing more shows later in the year. He says: "It's a 10 year apprenticeship. If you work hard you will improve. Enjoy getting better at what you do." We look forward to seeing you onstage in March Damien! **The Brisbane Comedy Festival** runs between March 01st – 27th at the **Brisbane Powerhouse**. Damien's show is between March 08th – 13th Tickets are available at [www.briscomfest.com](http://www.briscomfest.com) or on 07 3358 8600

## Best in Show

**Barbara Baugh and Kamahi Djordon-King** performed a rehearsed play reading at the



Kamahi Djordon-King in *3 Magpies Perched in a Tree*



*3 Magpies Perched in a Tree*

Kamahi Djordon-King, Barbara Baugh and Rodney Smith

**Powerhouse** in late February for the **World Theatre Festival**. The play by Glenn Shea is called **Three Magpies Perched in a Tree** and is the winner of the **2010 R.E. Ross Trust Playwright's Script Development Award** as well as winner of the **National Playwrights Conference 2011 Selection Award**. It was the first public reading of the work. [www.brisbanepowerhouse.org](http://www.brisbanepowerhouse.org)

## In the Works

- \* **Anna O'Hara** is shooting a feature next month titled **Where is Mum**. Anna plays Maria in the **Denoux Film Production**. [http://www.denouxfilms.net/flash\\_english/](http://www.denouxfilms.net/flash_english/)
- \* **Bad Behaviour** produced by **Kris Maric** and featuring **Georgina Symes** as Jennifer will screen at the **Australian Film Festival** and the **Cinequest Film Festival** in California in March. The latter being the films' International Premiere. More info can be found in the press centre: <http://badbehaviourmovie.com/presscentre/> Specific press release link in there announcing the news for both festivals is here - <http://badbehaviourmovie.com/presscentre/press-release-5-10feb11-festival-double-for-ritzzy-badbehaviour>
- \* **Sharny Keiser** has started her own International internet TV show for Mum's called **Yummy Mummy TV!** Check it out at [www.yummymummytv.com](http://www.yummymummytv.com) Which in 6 short months has become viral with Mum's from around the globe watching.
- \* This year **Brodie Dwyer** is training with the **Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble** as an Apprentice.
- \* **Fiona Waincott** is featured in the Queensland Government anti smoking campaign.
- \* **Niki-J Price** worked as movement/safety consultant on **QTC's Sacre Bleu!** and the up and coming **Man Equals Man** (Educational show). **Niki-J** Worked with **Ignition Films** to amazing feedback as the lead in their short film **True Love** produced by **Simon Toy**, Directed by **Robert Braiden** for **QPIX**.
- \* **Shannon Brierley** plays Shirley in **Beenleigh Theatre Group's** production of **When the Cat's Away**. The play, based on the TV show **George and Mildred** runs from February 18th to March 06th. Click here: [www.beenleightheatregroup.com/main/index.php](http://www.beenleightheatregroup.com/main/index.php)
- \* **Lost and Found** featuring **Emma Randall**, **Emma Corkery** and **Warren Meecham** is a finalist in the **West End Film Festival** <http://westendfilmfestival.com.au>
- \* **Mark Finden** is featured in the Michael Hill Jeweller ad currently airing.
- \* **Louise Marshall** and her husband **Richard** have welcomed their second child William into the world. Congratulations!
- \* **Ashley Ricardo** is the new voiceover artist for **ABC's Media Watch**. <http://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/>
- \* **Daniel Frawley** is featured in Paul's Milk Commercial for Flood Relief and a Dominoes Pizza/Visy Educational Recycling commercial.
- \* **Jesse Richardson** just wrapped on his first feature film, an independent feature called **Killervision** currently being shot in Melbourne.
- \* **Brent Dunner** has been accepted into the **JMC Academy** to do a Diploma of Digital Television Production - part of the on-going amassing of skills to eventually to make his own productions.

## Friends of the Workshop

The **Asia Pacific Screen Awards** are the regions highest accolades in film achievement, and help promote the films and filmmakers of the Asia-Pacific region to the global marketplace. In December **Lyn Kidd**, **Anna O'Hara** and **Ben Taylor** attended the 2010 awards ceremony as invited guests, celebrating the winners. Taking out Best Film was **Tangshan dadizheng (Aftershock)** from the People's Republic of China, Best Actress was awarded to **Yun Jung-hee** for **Shi (Poetry)** and Best Actor went to **Chen Daoming for Tangshan dadizheng (Aftershock)**. Anna also worked as the vocal coach for several of the guest speakers, including **Indira Naidoo**, **Anthony Frangi** and **Chen Lei**.



ASIA PACIFIC SCREEN AWARDS™

## The Noticeboard

Maintenance class is gearing up again. Contact the school to secure your place. 4 week blocks Tuesday Nights 6.30 – 10.30pm. Classes commence March 22nd - Still the best value professional workout class in Brisbane



Nancy Rodriguez and Mark Edwards Maintenance Class 2010.

\*\*\*Coming Soon... A new Actors Workshop Website is busily under construction, stay tuned - it's going live very soon!