



Photograph by Vincent Swift

left to right: Scott Young, Stephen Dorrington, Jermia Turner

Jermia Turner and Scott Young performed in *Billy Buckett: a Rock 'n' Roll Love Story!* to full houses for the Beenleigh Theatre group during April and May - great show guys!



The Actors Workshop

Established in 1994

Queensland's 1st registered actor training organisation.

Winter 2013, Issue #19

Industry News

2014 Sundance Film Festival

August 26th is the International short film submission deadline for the 2014 Sundance Film Festival. This category encompasses both narrative and documentary shorts. Short films are classified as those with a running time of less than 50 minutes. For more information click [here](#).



Still from 2013 short entry #PostModem by Jillian Mayer, Luxas Levyva, Daniel Fernandez

Eye of the Alumni: Anna O'Hara

Wearing 'Rose' coloured glasses...

Having just been awarded a bursary to study at the **Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performing Arts** in London, **Anna O'Hara's** career is steaming ahead. Graduating from TAW in 2008, Anna has honed her on-stage skills for the past couple of years, working with Heartbeast Vicious Theatre Ensemble, both as a member of the core ensemble, and on the management committee. In their most recent show *Clouduckooland* (directed by **Michael Beh**) Anna played a transgender character - a drag queen named Lady Nightingale. Playing her presented some unique challenges: "As it was a musical there was a lot of dancing in heels. Probably the most challenging thing however was voicing the character. I did a lot of work on lowering my voice and singing in character. I was very conscious of not wanting to create a 'spoo' of a drag queen but being true to the character. It was a lot of fun." In August Anna will tread the boards again, this time with **The Goat Track Theatre Company** in a new work called *Carve*, directed by **Andrew Wright**. Playing two regional venues, one on Mount Tamborine and the other in Maleny, the show also features workshopper **Rob Doran**, who Anna is looking forward to working with. "I constantly find myself working alongside graduates of **TAW**, which can only mean that their skills are greatly recognised within the industry. Training at **TAW** taught me to be responsible for my own career, not to wait for it to be handed to me by an agent or anyone else. You have to be creative and not take it personally when you hear 'No' but just find another way." In line with this philosophy, Anna is also developing a feature length screenplay with fellow workshopper **Emma Randall**. *Toots* is a biographical comic-drama about Queensland's pioneering female truck driver **Toots Holzheimer**, who sets out to be reunited with her children after estranged husband **Dinghy** brazenly steals them off the street. Dealing with factual subject matter there is quite a responsibility to "get it right" and do justice to the memory of the people involved. In the future this project will take Anna to FNQ for further research and development. And then there's that trip to London. As one of at most, a dozen people from around the world accepted into the prestigious **Rose Bruford College**, Anna is honoured to be among them. The usual pre-requisite for acceptance into any Masters programme is completion of a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honours. Anna's Diploma of Film & TV could have easily not been enough to be considered. After explaining to the panel that The Actors Workshop delivers the best standard of training in Queensland, coupled with her terrific audition, the quality of that training shone through and she was offered a place. Before she leaves, Anna is continuing her work with **Heartbeast** to develop their next show, *Vivien Leigh's School for Scandal*, which stars Workshop graduate **Karen Dinsdale** as *Vivien Leigh*. Directed by **Michael Beh & Adrienne Costello** the play will open in October. As for London? Anna is considering the possibility of staying on at **Rose Bruford** to complete a PhD once she has her MA. I'd love to bring back what I have learnt & implement it with **Heartbeast** to help expand the company. And I am really hoping to get my screenplay produced in Queensland so that what is a very uniquely Australian story can be shot here and provide work for all my fellow creative Queenslanders. We wish Anna all the best and look forward to the update!



Anna O'Hara

Best in Show

The first year students' Australian theatre Assessment went off splendidly at



Ashleigh Hook and Emily Poncini



Nick Tadic and Fiona Marsden the end of last term. They presented excerpts from *Kid Stakes* by **Ray Lawler** - the first play in his **Doll Trilogy**.

In the Works

- * Last month **Tamara McLaughlin, Bronte Pearce & Richard Lamont** performed the play *1066 The Bayeux Brought to Life* directed by **Paul Adams**.
- * **Rob Griffiths** and **Alex Hines** both performed in the play *You Can't Take It With You* for **Underground Productions** at the **Schonell Theatre** in May.
- * *The Ladies Man*, a French farce adapted by **Charles Morey** & featuring **Luke Constable** played to sold out crowds in May.
- * **Karen Dinsdale** will play *Vivien Leigh* & **Greg Stone** will play *Bernard Merefield* in *School for Scandal* with **Heartbeast Viscous Theatre Ensemble** in Oct. Greg is also in *Writers Block* with **GC Arts Theatre** this July.
- * **Jermia Turner** played the *Placard Girl* in *Reefer Madness* for the **Phoenix Ensemble**, shot the short *Love Never Dies* for **QUT**, & in August she plays *Denise* in the feature *Immortality*.
- * *The Queen and I*, featuring **Mungo McKay** will be screening at **GOMA** as part of the exhibition *My Country: I Still Call Australia Home*. The exhibition runs from June 1st to Oct 7th.
- * **Rob Jenkins** worked with **Noah Taylor** in the **Spierig Brothers** upcoming feature *Predestination*.
- * **Michael Thomson's** feature *Daddy's Little Girl* has been signed with a distributor & played at the **Cannes Film Festival**.
- * **Ben Taylor** worked on the short *Die Violine* co-produced by **Amanda Dettrick**.
- * **Bronte Pearce** worked on several shorts: *Dentation* for the **NYFA**, *Ivan the Car* for **Film Vault Productions**, *Paladin* for **Eye Key Productions**, for the **168hr Film Festival** in LA & *In a Corner* for **Respect Cat Productions**.
- * **Loretta Kung** filmed a **Treasury Casino TVC**, a photo shoot for **Suncorp Superannuation**, a **Credit Union Australia TVC** currently airing, & short *Reflections* directed by **Kurt Riddell & Martin Jacobsen**.
- * **Sally Pitts** is touring with **Alpha Shows** playing *Maleficent* in *Sleeping Beauty*.
- * **Ellen Hardisty** is currently touring a show called *George and the Dragon* performing in primary schools around **Ireland, England & Wales**.
- * **Barbara Baugh** had a role in **CBS TV series Camp** playing the bird lady.
- * **Tess Sebastian** was selected for the **Australian team** for **2013 World Championships of Performing Arts**. Tess had leads in the shorts **14/20** for **NYFA**, *Pre-supposed Conceptions* for **QUT**, & *Get Free* for **Stockade Productions**.
- * **Heath Yen Sen Chio** has been cast in a major supporting role in the feature *Radio Treason* for **Powerhouse Media**, shooting in Nov. Heath also worked on the shorts *Melissa Johnson Personal Trainer* for **QPX**, *Egg Fight* for **Griffith**, *It's a Man's World* for **Vertical Film & Sabine - How to make friends from home** for **NYFA**.
- * **Mercedes Porter** played the lead role in *Cat*, a **Griffith Film School Graduate Film** & the title role in *Red Lips*, a film noir short by **JMC Academy**.
- * **QPX Film True Love** featuring **Niki J Price** has been paired with **Oscar Wining Short Curfew** to screen on **KQED Television** in California. The films will screen together in a segment called *Dead Last Option*.
- * **Tanya Schneider** can be seen in the *Great Start Grant* commercial now airing.

Friends of the Workshop

As Queensland's longest running independent theatre company, **The Brisbane Arts Theatre** has been entertaining Queenslanders for 77 years. Over this time many Workshopppers have tread the boards there, including most recently **David Mines, Daniel Frawley, Andrew Lowe, Johancee Theron and Richard Lamont**. You can find out more about the **Brisbane Arts Theatre** [here](#).

Photograph by Leesa Connelly Forward Photography



David Mines & Daniel Frawley in **Brisbane Arts Theatre's 2012 production of *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead***, directed by **Natasha Kapper**.

The Noticeboard



WHITE LINES
Jesse Richardson has completed the teaser trailer for his 8 part web series called *White Lines*. Featuring Workshopppers **Daniel Green, Michael Thomson, Anna O'Hara, Jacqui Duncan, Greg Stone & Nathan Wright**. Check it out [here](#). The series will be released online in August.