



DANCE EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS
Sydney Opera House
April 14-15 2011

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Linda Lorenza

Linda completed a degree in Linguistics at Macquarie University, working in Speech Technology research and then at Musica Viva before studying Opera at the Sydney Conservatorium and later with the Juilliard School. She has performed locally and overseas and as a teacher has taught English, Drama, Music and ESL (including K-6 Drama and Musical Theatre in schools since 1994). Linda joined Bell Shakespeare in 2005, developing and extending the work of the company's educational and outreach programs, taking live interaction with the Arts into schools and communities. Identifying the ongoing need for teacher professional development she initiated the Regional Teacher Scholarship for Bell Shakespeare in 2007 and in 2009 secured a partnership with the University of Sydney enabling Australian English and Drama teachers to use Bell Shakespeare Professional Development within a Master of Education qualification.

Prior to joining ACARA in 2010 Linda has advocated taking Arts-based programs to remote schools and communities, actively promoting the use of diverse art forms, from the contemporary to the classic, with students for whom English is second language. Particular geographic regions of Linda's focus have included the NT and Cape York, and Thursday Island. She is a PhD student (in her spare time) researching Creative Arts in Education.

Jeff Meiners

Jeff has worked widely in dance, teaching all ages and running programs to support development in metropolitan and rural regions. He has taught extensively in schools, as leader of a dance education team, as a university lecturer and guest tutor in Australia and overseas. His work has included projects with young children, youth dance and people with disability, plus a range of partnerships with local government areas, the NSW Department of Education and Training, NAISDA and Ausdance NSW, where he initiated the Western Sydney and Northern Rivers Dance Action projects. He has written for the NSW Board of Studies, BBC Radio's Dance Education workshops and contributed to recent dance and drama education texts.

Jeff is currently a lecturer at the University of South Australia's School of Education, recently working in projects with teachers in Papua New Guinea, dance leaders at the Dance Xchange, Birmingham, England, with community artists at Forum Danca in Portugal and as dance advisor to *The Green Sheep* for Windmill Performing Arts. He was a member of the Australia Council's Dance Board from 2002-07, and is a member of the National Advocates for Arts Education. He is Dance writer for the *The Draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: The Arts*. Jeff was the recipient of the Australian Dance Award for Services to Dance Education in 2009.

Dr Katrina Rank

Katrina trained at The Australian Ballet School and performed with The Dancers Company, the Victorian State Opera and Northern Ballet Theatre (UK). In 1994 she was awarded a Bachelor of Education in Dance and Drama and has worked extensively in community dance. In 1996 she began her PhD research involving untrained dancers in the study of narrative applications in dance performance, and was awarded her doctorate in 2000. Katrina was a Caroline Plummer Fellow of Otago University, New Zealand in 2007, and in 2009 was artist in residence at Darebin, delivering a dance-film *Yours Truly*, an installation project for dancers with disabilities. In 2006 Katrina created Dance in Schools, a performance program and workshops for primary and secondary schools within Melbourne and regional Victoria. She is a teaching artist for the Royal Children's Hospital's Festival of Healthy Living (Ashwood and Reservoir projects), The Victorian Arts Centre and The Song Room, and is currently Education and Training Manager at Ausdance Victoria.

In her role at Ausdance Victoria, Katrina designs and delivers specialist education and training programs, resources which offer professional development opportunities for teachers, students and trainers. Recent projects include the annual Dance Across the Domains teacher conferences, subject teacher professional development days, VCE student industry days with in-studio training from professional dance companies, post-show discussions with visiting companies, and the development and writing of teaching resources including, most recently, for the Australian Children's Television Foundation's popular ABC television series *Dance Academy*.

Helen Cameron

As a dance educator Helen Cameron's work has embraced a diverse range of employment to include teaching, curriculum design, organisational reviews and development of dance education models designed to advance opportunities for young people to engage in dance education. During her ten years at the Victorian College of the Arts Helen developed a Bachelor of Arts (dance teaching major), established dance outreach programs for schools, published *Kinetic Sensory Studies* and undertook several reviews and national inquiries.

Helen is the Education Consultant for The Australian Ballet. Since 2006 she has researched and developed *Out There – The Australian Ballet in schools*. The project includes the professional development program for The Australian Ballet's Education Ensemble, which aims to provide best practice for participating students and their teachers. She also oversees several other programs including:

- ReDance – incursion program for primary school students/teachers
- My Journey – an excursion program based on kinetic literacy for primary school students/teacher
- Several partnership programs
- A professional learning program for generalist teachers.

Helen was the recipient of the Australian Dance Award for Services to Dance Education in 2010.

Frank Panucci

Director of the Community Partnerships Section of the Australia Council for the Arts. He has worked in community based arts, as well as, community and cultural development for over 20 years and has held a range of senior positions both in the government and general arts sector. The former CEO of Community Cultural Development NSW, Frank Panucci strongly believes that community-based and directed cultural development is an important

measure of the 'wellness' of a society. Frank was General Manager of Carnivale and President of FILEF (Federation of Italian Migrant Workers and their Families). Prior to this, Frank was a Senior Policy Officer at the Ethnic Affairs Commission, managed the Community Cultural Development Fund at the Australia Council and was a freelance consultant.

Julie Dyson

Julie has a classical ballet background and has a particular interest in dance education, having taught dance in both Perth and Canberra. She was also a member of the Canberra Parliamentary Reporting Staff where her interests in the political process, policy and advocacy were developed. As the National Director of Ausdance, her work has included strategic planning to support and sustain professional dance practice in Australia, and advice to funding bodies, government departments, companies and individual artists. She has initiated innovative dance partnerships with organisations such as the Australian Institute of Sport and the National Library of Australia, and produced *Dance Plan 2012* and the recent National Dance Forum, both in collaboration with the Australia Council. She chairs the National Advocates for Arts Education, and has received several national awards for her work. Julie was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2007.

David Spurgeon (facilitator)

British born, David started as a primary school teacher in England and NSW. He then spent 10 years at Sydney CAE lecturing in English, Communications, Drama and Dance whilst teaching movement improvisation and Afro-Caribbean dance at Bodenwieser Dance Centre. In 1990 he became Senior Lecturer at the University of NSW where he wrote and coordinated the University's B.A.(Dance)B.Ed. program until he retired in 2006. He is the author of several publications on dance education, including *Dance Till You Drop*, Red Fox (1998), and *Dance Moves. From Improvisation to Dance* (1991).

