



COURSE NOTES

Creating a piece for the State Drama Festival (primary)

eModule 1 – Devising and rehearsing

Presented by David Todd and Cath Simpson



The Arts Unit Digital Engagement

Access to online quality arts education support wherever and whenever you need it.
Teacher identified professional development (PD) courses on the Learning Hub,
NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) registered PD courses on MyPL.

Biographies

David Todd

David Todd is a primary school teacher who has worked for 16 years across the NSW Department of Education and the Northern Territory Department of Education.

David's current role is as the Digital Content Producer at The Arts Unit which was a secondment from his substantive role as Assistant Principal at Vaucluse Public School. In his role at The Arts Unit he produces videos and live streams for Digital Engagement.

David's classroom teaching has a strong emphasis on drama and film and at the number of schools he has worked at he has been a strong advocate for the arts, directing whole school musicals, plays, drama ensembles and establishing film festivals.

Beyond the classroom David has performed on stage, television and film. He has worked on NSW Department of Education events such as Create East, State Drama Festival, Sydney Region Drama Festival, Primary Drama Camp and Primary Play Day as both a director and tutor.

Cath Simpson

Currently assistant principal at Regentville Public School, Cath has taught for 30 years in western Sydney, and has been actively involved in performing arts programs throughout this time.

Cath has directed drama, dance and choir groups for K-6 school performances, and regional festivals, and until recently was the coordinator for the Western Sydney Drama Festival (now known as LightsUp Drama Festival), providing professional learning and support for aspiring primary drama teachers.

Cath's kindergarten students most recently graced the stage at the 2015 State Drama Festival where they shared their impressions of their first day of school.

Cath is committed to the principle that students' participation in the arts gives them the opportunity to develop creativity that sets them up as life long, 21st century learners.

Australian Professional Standards for Teachers

4.1 – Support student participation

Identify strategies to support inclusive student participation and engagement in classroom activities.

6.2 – Engage in professional learning and improve practice

Understand the relevant and appropriate sources of professional learning for teachers.

Glossary

Term	Definition
Adaptation	In a theatrical adaptation, material from another artistic medium, such as a novel or a film is re-written according to the needs and requirements of the theatre and turned into a play or musical.
Antagonist	A person who is opposed to, struggles against, or competes with another; opponent; adversary.
Blocking (Directing)	The director usually determines blocking during rehearsal, telling actors where they should move for the proper dramatic effect, ensure sight lines for the audience and work with the lighting design of the scene.
Choral speaking	A group of people narrating a poem or a dramatic piece together.
Devising	A form of theatre where the script originates not from a writer or writers, but from collaborative, usually improvisatory, work by a group of people (usually, but not necessarily, the performers).
Flocking	A type of movement improvisation in which students mirror or shadow each other's movement in groups. ... Students follow the movements of a leader and share leadership throughout the group.
Improvisation (Improv)	A form of live theatre in which the plot, characters and dialogue of a game, scene or story are made up in the moment.
Protagonist	A protagonist is the central character or leading figure in poetry, narrative, novel or any other story. A protagonist is sometimes called a "hero" by the audience or readers.
Tableau	A tableau is a dramatic picture. It is generally constructed using actors in a frozen position. Tableau is usually used to describe a vivid living scene.
Transition	A transition is a change from one thing to the next, either in action or state of being. It could be a set change, exit or entrance or a characterisation transformation.
Verbatim theatre	Verbatim theatre is a form of documented theatre in which plays are constructed from the precise words spoken by people interviewed about a particular event or topic.

About The Arts Unit Digital Engagement

NSW Department of Education The Arts Unit provides students and teachers with highly motivating and engaging opportunities that inspire their creative potential. The Arts Unit delivers programs in dance, drama, music, visual arts, debating, public speaking, reading, spelling and special events.

The Arts Unit Digital Engagement provides online access to arts education and professional development (PD), engaging students and teachers throughout NSW.

Content is delivered by experts and accompanied by useful classroom resources. It ranges from NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) registered and non-registered courses, to virtual excursions, streamed events and extensive digital libraries. This ensures learning supports teacher accreditation requirements and is relevant, memorable and meaningful for everyone.

Register today with The Arts Unit Learning Hub to browse and enjoy high quality digital engagement content. You will be notified through the hub as new NESA registered courses are available on MyPL.

The Arts Unit Digital Engagement¹ content can be accessed as follows:

- teacher identified PD: [The Arts Unit Learning Hub](#)²
- NESA registered PD: [MyPL](#)³
- virtual excursions: [Distance and Rural Technologies \(DART\) Connections](#)⁴
- live streamed events: The Arts Unit's [Facebook](#)⁵ page or [YouTube](#)⁶ channel.

For further information contact:

Carolyn Hammer

Digital Engagement Advisor

The Arts Unit

02 8512 1100 or 0414 636 909

digital.artsunit@det.nsw.edu.au

¹ The Arts Unit Digital Engagement: artsunit.nsw.edu.au/digital-engagement

² The Arts Unit Learning Hub: learninghub.artsunit.nsw.edu.au

³ MyPL: mypl.education.nsw.gov.au

⁴ DART Connections: dartconnections.org.au

⁵ Facebook The Arts Unit: facebook.com/TheArtsUnit

⁶ YouTube The Arts Unit: youtube.com/channel/UCPaWdupa6xCO0AWFzzS3eDQ