



Students from around the world create theatre through Brink

Leading South Australian theatre company Brink Productions has joined with Adelaide Secondary School of English (ASSE) to undertake an intensive arts residency program throughout 2010.

To date, a group of nineteen students from the school have participated in the program, working with professional performing artists to devise and create a series of short plays, through theatrical collaboration and storytelling techniques.

ASSE exemplifies how students from a vast range of cultural, religious, educational and socio-economic backgrounds can work in a positive, exciting and productive environment, whilst achieving extraordinary educational and personal gains.

The students involved do not have English as a first language and come to Adelaide from a range of different countries across the globe. They have been teamed up with some of Adelaide leading professional actors, writers, directors and musicians to assist them in the process and help them improve their spoken English through the arts and theatre. The theme “caught between two worlds” has inspired four short plays and refers to the trials and tribulations between family and friendship.

“It’s been a great privilege for Brink’s artists to be involved in this residency,” says Brink’s Artistic Director, Chris Drummond. “The students have brought an incredible openness and creativity to their work and their self -devised performances have delighted, stunned and moved all of us. It’s been a really wonderful collaboration with the Adelaide Secondary School of English and we’re grateful to them for welcoming us so warmly.”

The Principal of ASSE, Maria Iadanza, agreed the opportunity for the students to work with Brink has been an exceptional experience. “It has not only exposed the students to the exciting world of theatre, but their involvement with such a talented range of professionals has helped to build their English language skills, their self confidence and knowledge in this area of the wider curriculum,” she said.

Quotes from students of Class 17AA – Adelaide Secondary School of English

- I think this was a great experience for young people like me – Fredick Sunela (Guinea)
- I have improved many things that I haven’t known in my life - Emmanuel Niyomugabo (Rwanda)
- I am soooo happy that drama lesson has improved my morale - Yahya Ahmed (Kenya)
- Without you guys I wouldn’t act and stand in front of people or on stage to act – Nyier Jal (Sudan)

The program is a result of the Federal Government’s Australia 2020 Summit and is funded by the Australia Council through Arts SA under the banner ‘Creative Education Partnerships – Artists in Residence Initiative’.

Brink Productions has brought together many professional artists for the ASSE project including directors Chris Drummond and Sean Riley, actors Michaela Cantwell, Eliza Lovell, Mondli Makhoba, Assina Ntawumenya, Chris Pitman, Rory Walker, Adolphus Waylee and musicians Quentin Grant, Lamine Nanky and Jerome Lyons. The project coordinator is Brink’s Production Manager, Françoise Piron. The plays will be performed at the school for their fellow students and teachers at the end of Term 2.

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