

LAB KELPIE PRESENTS

A PRUDENT MAN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION MENU



LAB KELPIE

An Australian New Writing Company

A PRUDENT MAN

Community Engagement and Education Menu

ABOUT THIS MENU

The themes and form of Lab Kelpie's *A Prudent Man* lend themselves strongly to various community engagement activities and educational experiences. Here you will find a selection of ready-to-go workshops and masterclasses tied in with the project - and, in one case, literally part of the show - as well as ideas for teachers to utilise the piece to enrich existing education department syllabi.

You will also find Notes to Teachers throughout the workshop options with suggestions on how to tailor these to your specific curriculum. (Please note that specific secondary education activities will be run by Katy Warner who is not normally part of the touring party, and therefore may incur extra travel charges.)

The small technical size of the show means there ought to be more time available for this sort of engagement, and we encourage presenters and educators to get in touch to discuss options and ideas.

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1. MONOLOGUE MASTERCLASS: B.Y.O.M. (Bring Your Own Monologue)

Suitable For: Adults
Young Adults / Senior Secondary
Drama Students and Teachers
Beginners

Suitable for both participants (limited spaces) and auditors (audience)

Duration: 3-6 hours, flexible (allow approx. 25 minutes per participant)

Cost: \$15 – \$25pp
Can be packaged with show tickets (please call to discuss)

Outline: The dramatic monologue is concerned with a state of mind of a character; an emphasis on emotion or thought rather than action. Therefore (as *A Prudent Man* demonstrates) it can be a unique and powerful mode of expression for ideas.

In this masterclass, participants bring a 2-5 minute monologue of their choosing and get to workshop it on the floor with professional actor Lyall Brooks, focusing on tone, contrast, timing, rhythm, space and other dramatic elements to produce and polish an clear, effective - and affective - solo performance.

The masterclass is in the form of fun, supportive coaching sessions, flexible to the needs and skills of each participant. It can be a terrific means to practice audition technique, and - whether as participant or auditor – an excellent way to hone one's craft, build confidence... and rediscover that important sense of play!

Please note: auditing is a valuable learning experience in its own right, therefore participants are also expected to observe all others' sessions.

Outcomes:

- There is no expected performance outcome
- Resources and Further Reading handout
- A base on which to build – perhaps the group could continue to work on their material, with the aim of developing and presenting a group show?

FOR TEACHERS

This masterclass is also a wonderful opportunity for secondary students who want to extend their learning beyond the designated foundation skills, and/or senior students to trial material for their self-devised solo pieces.

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2. MONOLOGUE MASTERCLASS: A Prudent Performance

- Suitable For:** Adults
Young Adults / Senior Secondary
Drama Students
Beginners
- May be open to auditors (audience) – please contact to discuss
- Duration:** Masterclass: 3-6 hours, flexible (allow approx. 25 minutes per participant)
Performance: approx 1 hour
- Cost:** \$15 – \$25pp (to be packaged with show admission - please contact to discuss)
- Outline:** A powerful exploration of a politician at his breaking point, *A Prudent Man* can be even more thought-provoking and rewarding when contextualised amongst other short works that speak to the main piece’s themes, characters, and language.
- This masterclass aims to challenge and inspire participants – within a supportive, fun atmosphere – to each learn, rehearse and polish an assigned monologue, then present it in front of an audience during “Act II” of a designated performance of *A Prudent Man*.
- Each 2-5 minute solo piece will be allocated prior by the Lab Kelpie team – it may be a classic or unknown text, politically or socially themed, written by the same playwright, or otherwise complementary to the main work. Professional actor Lyall Brooks will work on the floor with each participant to interrogate the text and finesse their performance, then assist the group to assemble the pieces into an affecting structure ready to perform.
- Note: Participants will be allocated monologues at least a week prior to the masterclass and are expected to have learned or be extremely familiar with the material, ready to work on the floor. Participants are expected to observe all the others’ sessions before and after their own, participate in feedback and contribute to the formation of the group project.*
- Outcomes:**
- Presentation of the work at a performance of *A Prudent Man* (usually the evening of the masterclass)
 - Scripts, Resources and Further Reading handouts

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3. WRITING WORKSHOP: Heroes and Villains

Suitable For: Writers and Playwrights
Students

Duration: 4 hours

Cost: TBC

Outline: Using *A Prudent Man* as a case study, award-winning writer and playwright Katy Warner will take participants through her own creative writing process before facilitating practical exercises with the group in order to workshop their own ideas.

Applicable to both long- and short-form fiction, dialogue- and monologue-driven drama, this workshop will focus on how current affairs and politics can be used deftly as a springboard for material, and how to create an authentic anti-hero by effectively telling a story through the “other”.

Outcomes:

- Resources and Further Reading handouts
- Copy of the script of *A Prudent Man*

FOR TEACHERS

Depending on location, this class may be a significant financial add-on as it requires the attendance of an extra team member. Why not minimise any additional costs by utilising facilitator Katy Warner’s extensive secondary drama and theatre studies experience and organising a workshop in *Working with Stimulus Material*, *Devising a Solo Performance*, perhaps a curriculum-focused version of our *Monologue Masterclass 1: B.Y.O.M.*, or any other valuable incursions?

See the Education section of this menu, chat to your hosting presenter, and contact education@labkelpie.com to chat about what we can do together.

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4. PLAYBUILDING WORKSHOP

Suitable For: Adults
Young Adults / Senior Secondary
Children
Drama Students and/or Teachers
Beginners

Duration: Full Day

Outline: Playbuilding is, essentially, the **creation of a performance from virtually nothing**. Playbuilt pieces can be generated from **ideas, issues, events, pictures, songs, plays, or poems**; what they start out as and what they become is part of the Playbuilding process.

Playbuilding can be a valuable tool for drama students, an effective channel for discussion of youth issues, or a fascinating, valuable and fun activity for adults!

This full-day lesson takes the participants through all the stages of the process:

- **The Starting Point:** Brainstorming, discussion and improvisation to find the group's "pulse" or potential direction of interest, as well as the establishment of group dynamics.
- **Finding the Spine:** collating the information and ideas, identifying any timelines or through-lines, important characters or scenarios, and finding the dramatic question that we are asking the audience.
- **Working on Scenes:** Time to improvise and explore the individual parts in groups. Solidify with the process of "Experiment, Refine, Discuss, Select".
- **Putting It Together:** Experiment with dramatic structure and conventions, costume or sound and music. Rehearse and run to identify improvements and check to see we are addressing our established dramatic question.
- **Performance and Feedback:** Participants perform for an audience and participate in any feedback, questions and discussions their piece may bring up.

The performance can ultimately be light and comedic, dramatic and hard-hitting, spoken, sung, danced, mimed... or any combination at all! It is more often a themed performance piece than a narrative play; the **process of Playbuilding** is as - if not more - important than the finished product.

It is an experience that will challenge, inspire and excite all participants and one that they won't forget!

Outcomes:

- Open, informal performance
- Resources and Further Reading handouts
- A base on which to build - many groups often continue the process in the following months the creation of a more formal performance piece or merely to investigate the process or issues further.

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EDUCATION

A Prudent Man provides terrific potential for adding to and enriching current secondary education curricula - not only in Drama and Theatre Studies, but also English, History, Civics and Citizenship, Social Studies and more.

Some workshop ideas include:

WORKING WITH STIMULUS MATERIAL

The script of *A Prudent Man* is full of rich stimulus material. Using some of the stimulus material playwright Katy Warner used in the development of the script, students will discover how to find inspiration from a person, a speech, a line, a slogan and other materials, and how to wield that stimulus into performance.

Appropriate for: VCE Drama Unit 4; QCE Drama Dimension 1 and Drama in Practice Dimension 3

DEVISING A SOLO PERFORMANCE (Process, Rehearsal And Development)

Students will be taken through the process used to create *A Prudent Man*. Practical exercises and workshopping their own ideas with director and playwright, Katy Warner, will assist students in developing their own process for devising.

Appropriate for: VCE Drama Unit 4; QCE Drama Dimensions 1 & 2 and Drama in Practice Dimension 3

Of course, teachers may wish to simply bring their class to the show and facilitate their own application of the piece to their students' learning. We will happily provide teachers' resource kits, and encourage inclusion of a post-show Q&A. Please contact education@labkelpie.com if you do not already have these resources, and organise your school group booking and potential Q&A with your local presenter.

Katy Warner, writer and director of *A Prudent Man*, has created all teachers' resources and will also facilitate all curriculum-based classes and workshops. Katy is a qualified secondary drama and theatre studies teacher and currently works as education officer at Arts Centre Melbourne.

If you would like to know how *A Prudent Man* could complement any other subject or curriculum, or have ideas or questions about workshops and classes, please don't hesitate to contact Katy via education@labkelpie.com.

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FACILITATORS



LYALL BROOKS

Performer

Monologue Masterclasses

Playbuilding Workshop

Q&As

Lyall is an award-winning actor, artistic director of Lab Kelpie, and emerging theatre director.

As an actor, Lyall has starred in *Savages* (fortyfivedownstairs), *Penelope* and *The Pride* (Red Stitch), *The Heretic* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Sunday In the Park with George* (Victorian Opera) and *Guys & Dolls* (Donmar/Ambassador). He has received three Green Room Award nominations for *Savages*, *The Pride* and *The Thing About Men* (Magnormos). His one-man piece *A Prudent Man* won both the Audience Choice and WA Tour Ready Awards at Melbourne Fringe 2016.

Television appearances include HBO's *The Leftovers*, ABC's *The Divorce*, many of Australia's popular TV serials, as host of gameshow *The Mint*, sketch comedies *Ben Elton Live From Planet Earth* and *You're Skitting Me!*, and feature film *Any Questions for Ben?*. He is also an established voice over artist, starring in international animations *Sumo Mouse*, *SheZow*, *Kuu-Kuu Harajuku*, the AACTA-nominated *Flea-Bitten!* and AACTA- and Emmy-nominated *Get Ace*.

His independent theatre company, Lab Kelpie, has produced four sell-out shows, several national tours and performed to over 4,000 people since 2013. Their two most recent works, *Elegy* and *A Prudent Man*, will tour nationally across 2017 and 2018.

A teaching artist and creative consultant with Make A Scene since 2010, he has an ongoing assistant directing role with their past and future tours of *The Servant of Two Masters*. He has previously served as assistant director on *Elegy* and *A Prudent Man* and as co-devisor and director on *SuperGirly: Return of the Pop Princess*, all for Lab Kelpie, and contributed to creative developments of new works under directors such as Simon Phillips (*Ladies in Black*), Roger Hodgman (*Strange Bedfellows*) and Gary Abrahams. In 2017 he will work on Patricia Cornelius' new play *Big Heart*, under acclaimed director Susie Dee.

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KATY WARNER

Writer and Director

Writing Workshop
Secondary Education Workshops
Potential Q&As

Katy studied at the Victorian College of the Arts, receiving a Master of Writing for Performance in 2012.

Her plays have been presented across Australia and in Edinburgh as part of Festival Fringe. Katy received an AWGIE award for Best Children's Theatre for her script, *Reasons to Stay Inside*. Her play, *nest*, recently made the long list of Theatre503's Playwriting Award (UK) and is in rehearsal for debut season in London with director Yasmeen Arden.

Plays include *A Prudent Man* (Winner: People's Choice Award and WA Touring Award and Nominated: Best Performance, Melbourne Fringe 2016), *Reasons to Stay Inside* (Winner: Best Kids Show, Melbourne Fringe 2015 and Winner: Best Children's Theatre, AWGIE 2016), *Dropped* (Highly Commended: Best Emerging Writer, Melbourne Fringe 2013) and *These are the isolate* (Winner: Best Emerging Writer, Melbourne Fringe 2010). She is writing a commission for the Old Fitz's New Voices Program (Sydney) and was selected to be a part of the Malthouse Theatre's Besen Family Artist Program (Writer Development).

Her fiction has received the Rachel Furnai Prize for Literature (Lip Magazine) and has been shortlisted for awards including the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Prize, Overland Magazine Neilma Sidney Short Story Prize and Grace Marion Wilson Emerging Writers Prize. She is currently working on her debut novel, *Regime*, to be published by Black Inc. Books in 2017.

Her next play, *Spencer*, is being produced by Lab Kelpie for a 2017 season at Chapel off Chapel. She is a proud member of the Australian Writers' Guild