



## **Drama and Literacy in Education: Active Learning through Participation**

***Research indicates that there is a strong positive relationship between participation in drama and academic benefits for young people, including literacy development.***



**Workshop 1: Tuesday, 10 July 2007, 9.30am-12 noon – [Primary](#)**

**Workshop 2: Wednesday, 11 July 2007, 9.30am-12 noon – [Secondary](#)**

### **Workshop Overview**

Students in drama use their literacy skills in situations that demand their participation. When students engage holistically with the meanings offered in a story, they develop new understanding of the content at both the interpersonal and the intrapersonal levels (Gardner, 1983). They do so by exploring human behaviours and experiences in social circumstances under fictional pressure. In drama, we have the opportunity to draw our students' attention to what they are listening to with their eyes and seeing with their ears - that is, the accumulation and movement of meanings that lie underneath the words and the doing (Miller, & Saxton, 2004, p. 31).

Drama educates through a multiplicity of metalanguages - "the humanizing languages of the arts" (UNESCO World Arts Conference (2006, p.2) - requiring that each student brings his/her own personal contexts and feelings into play. These become the fabric with which the fictional world is woven. The interactive story drama workshops, based on picture books, offer a major contribution to the exercising of multiple literacies while offering opportunities to uncover the social (or "hidden") curriculum.

The contexts for the work will be geared either to elementary, middle and/or secondary classrooms depending on the members of the group.

Participants will be provided with a comprehensive resource guide to use with their own students.





### Presenters' Biographies

Carole Miller is Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction, Faculty of Education, University of Victoria. A co-author of *Learning to Teach Drama: A Case Narrative Approach*, and recipient of the Faculty of Education Award for Excellence in Teaching, her primary area of research is the relationship of drama to learning across the curriculum.

Juliana Saxton is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Theatre and Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Victoria. Co-author of *Teaching Drama: a mind of many wonders* and *Asking Better Questions* (now in its 2nd edition), she is recipient of the University of Victoria Alumni Teacher of Excellence award and serves as deputy University Orator.

Together Carole and Juliana wrote *Into the Story: Language in Action Through Drama* for generalist teachers. Tested out in classrooms of all levels over six years before being published by Heinemann, the text became the American Alliance for Theatre and Education's Distinguished Book of 2005. Co-chairs of the Academic Program for the 5th International Drama and Theatre in Education Association (IDEA) World Congress, Ottawa 2004, they very much look forward to continuing those associations through sharing their work and learning new perspectives.

### References

Gardner, H. (1983). *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*. New York: BasicBooks

Miller, C. & Saxton, J. (2004). *Into the Story: Language in Action through Drama*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

UNESCO (2006). Joint Declaration of the international drama/theatre and Education association (IDEA), international society for education through art (InSEA), international society for music education (ISME). Viseu, Portugal.  
<http://www.assitej.org/doc/Joint%20Declaration.pdf> (retrieved March 23, 2007)





## Target Audience

**In-service teachers (Primary and Secondary)**

## Cost

\$95 per workshop (GST inclusive)

## Venue

Education Building, Manning Road, The University of Sydney

## For further information

please contact:

Ms Nina Goodwin

Division of Professional Learning

Faculty of Education and Social Work – Bldg A35, Room 607

University of Sydney NSW 2006

Email: [nina.goodwin@edfac.usyd.edu.au](mailto:nina.goodwin@edfac.usyd.edu.au)

Telephone: 02 9351 4799

Facsimile: 02 9351 6249

Website: [www.edsw.usyd.edu.au/proflearn](http://www.edsw.usyd.edu.au/proflearn)



**To register, please complete the attached enrolment form.**

Division of Professional Learning  
Building A35, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia.  
Phone: +61 2 9351 4799 Fax: +61 2 9351 6249 Website: [www.edsw.usyd.edu.au/proflearn](http://www.edsw.usyd.edu.au/proflearn)  
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Email \_\_\_\_\_ Teaching Area \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION AND FEE DETAILS**

Workshop Title: **Drama and Literacy in Education: Active Learning through Participation**

Attendance Date(s):  Primary Teachers' Workshop      Tuesday, 10 July 2007      Fee \$ 95 (Inc. GST)  
 Secondary Teachers' Workshop      Wednesday, 11 July 2007      Fee \$ 95 (Inc. GST)

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*Closing date for registrations and refunds for withdrawal (less a \$50 administration fee) is 7 days prior to start date.*

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Why are you enrolling in one of the DPL's courses? \_\_\_\_\_

