



Speech, Drama, Voice, Communication – The strength of the pack!

At a recent viewing of Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, (Disney) the law of the jungle recited that 'the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack.'

Now while we are not wolves, it was evident at a recent Professional Development seminar of both Speech and Singing Teachers that we are indeed 'the strength of the pack'. Bridging the gap and seeing similarities, strengths and exciting developments was the focus of the day, with both Singing and Speech teachers joining together to celebrate 'the stage.'

Some new developments from the Federal Board about Diplomas on Demand, online examinations and Alternative Examinations were discussed as was a truly exciting collaboration that we now have with The Actor's Centre here in Adelaide.

South Australia is a vibrant State, where our Artistic mastery is highlighted during 'mad March' with the Fringe and Adelaide Festivals and of course echoed throughout the year at various performances which celebrate the art of life – DRAMA!

The Actor's Centre, Adelaide is a new and dynamic Drama Centre. Students can gain accreditation and mastery of their acting skills right here in S.A. What's even more exciting is that the dynamic rigour which is part of the Actor's Centre drama courses is echoed in our own AMEB Speech and Drama syllabuses. So much so, that we are able to unite with the Actor's Centre to offer their students an opportunity

to further their study with the AMEB, sitting both practical and theory examinations and eventually gaining their Associate in Drama and Performance (Performer's) Diploma. These candidates will use the knowledge and skills gained with The Actor's Centre along with the knowledge and skills gained through AMEB Speech and Drama, to strengthen their performance skills, ready to propel them toward the next step in their lives.

Speech and Drama has enjoyed a rich history with the AMEB. From its beginnings with Elocution to the move toward the understanding of the Voice (breathing, posture, vocal dynamics, the voice as an instrument, phonetics and physiology) and also of the richness of text in Drama (movement, staging, theatre history, performance – prose, verse, drama, non-fiction texts) found in its Speech and Drama syllabuses, it really is a comprehensive area of study which acknowledges the diversity of life and the multitude of talents in our students. Our syllabuses in Drama and Performance, Voice and Communication, Drama and Communication and Drama and Performance Theory hold something for absolutely everyone out there.

It is through the strength of the syllabus, the diversity of our community, the excitement of new adventures and new collaborations, that we are indeed 'the strength of the pack'. When we share ideas with colleagues, not just in our own specialities but in building bridges across syllabuses and skills, then our collaboration can really be seen as a celebration of the art of life!

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