

## Rebits'n'Pieces - December News

Updated: Dec 18, 2019



Craig Wallace and Simone Penkethman

### Family Farewells

Rebus would like to extend our immense gratitude to two members of the family that we farewelled at our AGM last week. President Simone Penkethman and Vice President Craig Wallace left the Board after three years of invaluable guidance, sage mentorship, and warm friendship. We wish them well in their future endeavours and can't thank them enough for all they have done for us. We could not have achieved all that we have without them!



Evelyn Meier and Daniel Savage

### New President and Vice President

As the winds change, we welcome Evelyn Meier and Daniel Savage to their new positions of President and Vice President of the Board respectively. We look forward to working closely with them to develop the company's financial sustainability through their networks and experience.



Cast of 'A Tender Thing'

### A Tender Thing

A Tender Thing was a huge success with near full houses and a rave review from the Canberra Critics' Circle. In this exploration of love and disability, the mixed ability cast brought their stories to life moving between humour, reflection and provocation. A Tender Thing was funded by ArtsACT. [Check out the review here!](#)



### Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards 2019

Rebus was honoured to be nominated for the Chief Minister's Excellence in Championing Human Rights award. We had a great time at the awards ceremony on December 5th. We would like to congratulate all the nominees and winners for the amazing work they do in our community.



### Meeting Place 2019

Meeting Place is the leading forum for arts, culture and disability in Australia, organised by Arts Access Australia. This year it was held in Canberra in December to coincide with the International Year of People with Disabilities. Rebus had a powerful presence. One of our newer actors, Michelle McDonald, presented as part of a panel on Leadership, Identity and Pride. Cara Matthews, our Creative Producer, led a part of the Crip the Stage: Performance and Disability workshop. We performed our Forum Theatre Open Doors Open Minds to a small but enthusiastic audience. This was the first time we have performed this play in 2019, with a largely new cast. Thanks to ArtsACT for a grant that made this performance possible.





## Rebus welcome's Alana Foster as Treasurer of the Board



Alana Foster joined the Rebus Board in November 2019 taking up the position of Treasurer. Alana has 30 years of experience as an accountant, auditor, senior executive and consultant.

She currently mentors students with challenging life circumstances studying drama and humanities at the Australian Catholic University through St Vincent de Paul's Clemente Program.

Alana is a passionate supporter of the theatre and advocate for the marginalised. Alana is keen to promote Rebus and help us secure long-term funding.





## 'The Future is Inclusive' podcast



### 'The Future is Inclusive' podcast

Our creative producer Cara Matthews recorded a podcast series about how to be inclusive and with her team won a commendation at the Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards. Find 'The Future is Inclusive' on [Spotify here](#), or on all your podcast/streaming services [here](#).

We all want to be an ally for people with disability. But we don't always know how. By listening to the perspectives of people with disability, this ten-part podcast series gives insiders' perspectives and advice to allies on how to "tool up" and make the world a richer and better place through supporting inclusion.

The Future Is Inclusive is hosted by Cara Matthews with co-hosts Ruth O'Brien, Suzy and Alison Procter and guests Senator Jordan Steele-John, Sue Salthouse, Robert Altmore, Dougie Herd, Yenn Purkis, Penny Pollard, Naomi Barnbaum, Samantha Kourtis, Dominika and Shawn Cady, Sheree Henley, Lyndall Read, Craig Wallace, David, Amanda Charles, Lily Sharrock and Nip Wijewickrema. Produced by Kim Lester. Funded by the ACT Office for Disability



Ben Drysdale 🏰 · Dec 13, 2019 · 1 min read



## Our first ever Annual Report

Rebus is excited to present our very first annual report for the 2018/2019 financial year. It was a huge year and we are very proud of all we achieved. The projects Access All Areas: Health and Moving Climates saw us expand into new areas. Our work was recognised at the ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards, with awards for 'Excellence in Championing Human Rights' and the 'Chief Minister's Award for Excellence'. [Click here to see the full report!](#)







## Rebits'n'Pieces - November News

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### Hands Across Canberra Luncheon

Rebus' Communication's Manager, Ben Drysdale attended the annual Hands Across Canberra Luncheon to meet other Canberra based social entrepreneurs and network with individuals and companies interested in donating to not-for-profit organisations. Social entrepreneurs pitched their projects to investors over a delicious lunch in the Gandel Hall at the National Gallery of Australia. Ben made some great connections with fellow entrepreneurs and businesses alike and looks forward to building relationships and collaborations with them in future.



### Hearts in a Row at Belle's 'Much Ado'!

In October 20 Rebus staff, board members and participants had privilege and pleasure to attend Belle Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' at the Canberra Theatre as part of the 'Hearts in a Row' program.

Every 'Hearts In A Row' recipient receive a complimentary ticket, program and soft drink voucher and takes part in a post-show talk with an Arts Educator, designed to make sure they walk away at the end of the performance enriched, enthused and enlivened by the experience.

All who attended absolutely loved the show and really appreciated the insight of our educator, Lucy Matthews.



### Inclusive Drama Classes with Rebus... Enrol now for 2020!

Rebus currently runs two inclusive NDIS approved Drama Classes a week for people of all abilities at The Hub in Phillip. This course is designed to build confidence, make new friends, and learn acting and performance skills in our person-centered drama program. As well as teaching physical, vocal, writing and musical skills, we will do our best to identify the specific goals and strengths of each student so they can reach their fullest potential in our end of term performance.

We will play drama games that develop physical and mental awareness, as well as exercise our imaginations while developing different characters as we devise our own play as a group. Express your interest here: <https://www.rebustheatre.com/contact> if you or someone you care for would be interested in joining our classes!

[#HandsAcrossCanberra](#) [#BelleShakespeare](#) [#MuchAdoAboutNothing](#) [#inclusivearts](#)  
[#DramaClasses](#) [#InclusiveDramawithRebus](#)





Ben Drysdale 🏰 · Nov 26, 2019 · 1 min read



# Bittersweet Farewell

Updated: Dec 18, 2019



It is with mixed emotions that we announce that our Creative Producer, co-founder, friend, and general boss lady, Cara Matthews, will be leaving Rebus to pursue her acting career in Melbourne at the end of the year. Cara has been with Rebus from the start, we would never have come as far as we have without her, and she will be deeply missed. Please join us in wishing her ALL the success in the next phase of her creative journey.





Ben Drysdale 🏰 · Nov 22, 2019 · 1 min read



# Open Doors Open Minds (and more) at Meeting Place 2019

Updated: Dec 18, 2019



Rebus is remounting our award-winning forum theatre show 'Open Doors Open Minds' at Meeting Place 2019. The performance will be held at Belconnen Arts Centre on Tuesday 3 December from 11:30am-1pm with lunch provided afterwards. [Tickets are limited so please register here.](#)

Open Doors, Open Minds is an interactive theatre performance created by Rebus Theatre, about the barriers that people with disability face in accessing community activities. Developed by a cast of people with disability in partnership with Rebus Theatre Artistic Director Robin Davidson, it is a piece of Forum Theatre.

Forum Theatre is a form where actors present a short prepared play where poor decisions are made and the ending is catastrophic. It is presented twice – the first time beginning to end in the normal fashion. The second time through, anyone in the audience can call 'Stop!', come onto the stage and replace one of the actors, to see if the outcome can be changed. It can be funny, frustrating, enlightening and empowering as an audience collectively discovers how to challenge discriminatory practices and cultures.

Also at meeting place, our Creative Producer, Cara Matthews will be speaking on a panel and conducting a workshop based on our work for the 'Crip the stage' presentation. [You can register here.](#)

[#OpenDoorsOpenMinds](#) [#RebusTheatre](#) [#ForumTheatre](#) [#NDIS](#) [#NDIA](#) [#MeetingPlace2019](#)





# A Tender Thing - An original play about love and disability

Updated: Dec 18, 2019



Rebus Theatre presents:

*A Tender Thing*

An original play about love and disability written and directed by Heidi Silberman & Ali Clinch

Friday 6-Saturday 7 December 2019 7-8pm, and Sunday 8 December 2019 4-5pm

Ralph Wilson Theatre, Gorman Arts Centre, 55 Ainslie Ave, Braddon

[Tickets available at here](#)

Rebus Theatre presents a new theatrical work inspired by William Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. 'A Tender Thing' explores the experience of romantic love through the lens of living with a disability.

A cast of mixed ability actors has devised the work under the direction of Heidi Silberman and Ali Clinch. Including elements of dance, physical theatre, scripted work and improvisation, the performance delves into the complex world of dating, love and marriage using the performers' own experiences and thoughts to create a piece of theatre unlike any other.

As well as being a great way to explore important themes and social issues, this pro-amateur production aims to provide career pathways for actors of all abilities to progress from Rebus' ongoing inclusive drama classes, into professional work with the company.

This project is supported by the ACT Government through ArtsACT

Rebus Theatre is supported by Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres.

Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres ability to support this fabulous project is through the generous support of JWLand <https://www.jwland.com.au>

[#InclusiveDramawithRebus](#) [#PeoplewithaDisability](#) [#IntellectualDisability](#) [#Theatre](#)

[#Shakespeare](#) [#ArtsACT](#) [#RalphWilsonTheatre](#) [#GormanArtsCentre](#)





## Rebits 'n' Pieces - October News

Updated: Dec 18, 2019



Rebus' Creative Producer, Cara, has been invited to attend the **ACT Women's summit** on 14th October. The ACT Women's Summit is an invite only event which will bring together key community and government stakeholders for the development of the Second Action Plan 2020-22, under the ACT Women's Plan 2016-26.

Rebus was also successful in two rounds of ArtsACT funding this month! We received a grant through their non-funded organisation capacity building round to develop a fundraising skills and develop philanthropic networks.

We also received funding through their under \$5,000 round to perform Open Doors Open Minds at **Meeting Place 2019** in December. Meeting Place is the leading event for arts and disability in Australia, and the only disability-led event of its kind. It brings together local, national and international arts and cultural leaders, arts workers and artists to present, perform, discuss and debate the latest in access and inclusion in the arts.

**#ArtsACT #inclusivearts #Inclusion #InclusionActivities**





## Bridges or Barricades Wrap Up



*Image - Teaching Artist Ali Clinch with students at Kingsford Smith School after their Bridges or Barricades performance in 2017.*

Rebus has just wrapped up our second *Bridges or Barricades* program, a tailor made Forum Theatre Program for schools in the ACT region. After running the program in 2017 at Kingsford Smith School, Teaching Artists, Ali Clinch and Sammy Moynihan, have just completed the program at [Telopea Park School](#). The program runs for 10 weeks and tackles issues unique to an individual school's community and culture.

During the program older students work with younger students to find out what kind of experiences they have with conflict in their day to day school lives. They use this information to develop an interactive theatre piece, that is then performed to the younger students, allowing them to work together to find solutions to the challenges they have been facing.

17 year 9/10 Drama Students developed the performance in consultation with 50 year 6/7 students. Some students experienced a vast change in their attitudes to self and their impact in the drama space and the wider school community. Others were quiet achievers but were clearly benefiting from the work demonstrating increase confidence and self-esteem over the course of the program.

The program aims to create a close community within the drama space, encouraging students to develop empathy for others in their class with a special focus on students with whom they wouldn't normally associate. The group achieved this community nicely, demonstrating care for one another throughout the final stages of the program and during performances.

[#ACTSchools](#) [#TheatreinSchools](#) [#TelopeaParkSchool](#) [#ForumTheatre](#)





## Public Performance: Access All Areas: Justice



We are well into rehearsal for Access All Areas: Justice and we are already proud of what we are creating. We will be delivering this free professional development opportunity to staff of justice services in the ACT to attend experiential inclusion training that's also fun over October.

To wrap up the project we are also holding a public performance on Friday October 25 from 6pm in the Main Hall at Gorman Arts Centre, 55 Ainslie Ave, Braddon.

This interactive performance is developed and presented by people with disabilities. It will look at where things can go wrong when people with disability (including mental ill-health) interact with justice services, allowing audiences to work together to find solutions.

This training is being presented to all areas of justice services including Police, Lawyers, Public Advocates, Public Servants, Corrections Staff, and Policy Makers.

Tickets are free but places are limited. You can register your attendance [here](#)

This project is funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency's Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program.

[#InclusionGrants](#) [#inclusivearts](#) [#CanberraVolunteers](#) [#AccessAllAreasJustice](#)  
[#JusticeServices](#) [#NDIS](#) [#NDIA](#) [#InformationLinkagesandCapacityBuilding](#)





## Term 3 Inclusive Drama Class performances... Enrol now for term 4!



Term 3 saw two new shows written and performed by our participants. Monday's class wrote a noir inspired detective ghost story involving disappearing wands, repentant bad guys and shrinking trains.

Wednesday's class wrote spaghetti western about a travelling theatre troupe who's sellout ticket profits were stolen by a mischievous cowgirl. Both classes learnt and sang their own renditions of 'Rainbow Connection' by Paul Williams.

Rebus currently runs two inclusive NDIS approved Drama Classes a week for people of all abilities at The Hub in Phillip. This course is designed to build confidence, make new friends, and learn acting and performance skills in our person-centered drama program.

As well as teaching physical, vocal, writing and musical skills, we will do our best to identify the specific goals and strengths of each student so they can reach their fullest potential in our end of term performance.

We will play drama games that develop physical and mental awareness, as well as exercise our imaginations while developing different characters as we devise our own play as a group. Express your interest [here](#) if you or someone you care for would be interested in joining our classes!

[#inclusivearts](#) [#InclusiveDramawithRebus](#) [#Inclusion](#) [#DramaClasses](#) [#Drama](#)





## Rebits'n'Pieces - August News



**Enrol now for term 4 Inclusive Drama Classes** Rebus currently runs two inclusive NDIS approved Drama Classes a week for people of all abilities at The Hub in Phillip. This course is designed to build confidence, make new friends, and learn acting and performance skills in our person-centred drama program. As well as teaching physical, vocal, writing and musical skills, we will do our best to identify the specific goals and strengths of each student so they can reach their fullest potential in our end of term performance. We will play drama games that develop physical and mental awareness, as well as exercise our imaginations while developing different characters as we devise our own play as a group. Express your interest here if you or someone you care for would be interested in joining our classes!



### Meeting Place

Rebus has been invited to be part of the program at upcoming disability arts forum Meeting Place 2019 in December. Meeting Place is the leading event for arts and disability in Australia, and the only disability-led event of its kind. It brings together local, national and international arts and cultural leaders, arts workers and artists to present, perform, discuss and debate the latest in access and inclusion in the arts.

Rebus will take part in workshops and panels and have also applied for a small ArtsACT grant to perform our Open Doors Open Minds Forum Theatre show at the event. Open Doors Open Minds explores the barriers and frustrations faced by people with disabilities in accessing community programs and services. Set in Community Arts Centre that is running an inclusive program, Open Doors Open Minds explores the technological, systemic and attitudinal barriers to full and meaningful participation of people with disabilities in community activities.



### Actorvate

Rebus has submitted an application for ArtsACT Program Funding to deliver Actorvate, a training program for theatre practitioners interested in developing their skills in Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) practice. If successful Rebus will be running a two-year training program for successful applicants, who will be paid a trainee wage as they develop their skills in a range of theatrical techniques that can be applied to CACD practice. As part of the program Rebus will also hold a number of weekend workshops open to the public on a fee for service basis.

#Rebus #RebusTheatre #InclusiveDramawithRebus #Inclusion #InclusionActivities  
#MeetingPlace2019 #ForumTheatre #Training #professionaldevelopment





## Final stages of Community Consultations for 'Access All Areas: Justice'



We are in the final stages of planning and consultation for this project and begin developing the training in early September. The interest from the justice sector has been overwhelming and we are in discussions with the Australian Federal Police, the Department of Public Prosecutions, The Human Rights Commission, and Legal Aid about organising training sessions for their employees.

There is still time to submit to our online survey for people with disabilities to share stories about accessibility and inclusive practice issues they have encountered interacting with justice services in the ACT. [Click here to share your story](#). If you would prefer to share your story by email or phone, or send us a video [contact us here](#). The deadline for submissions is Monday September 2.

We will also be holding a face-to-face community consultation for people with disabilities on Saturday September 14. Limited places are almost filled but if you'd like to participate [contact us here](#) to express your interest. Participants will receive a \$100 per diem for their time.

[#JusticeServices](#) [#Inclusivepractice](#) [#InclusionActivities](#) [#AccessAllAreas](#) [#Accessibility](#)  
[#AccessAllAreasJustice](#) [#IntellectualDisability](#) [#Inclusion](#)

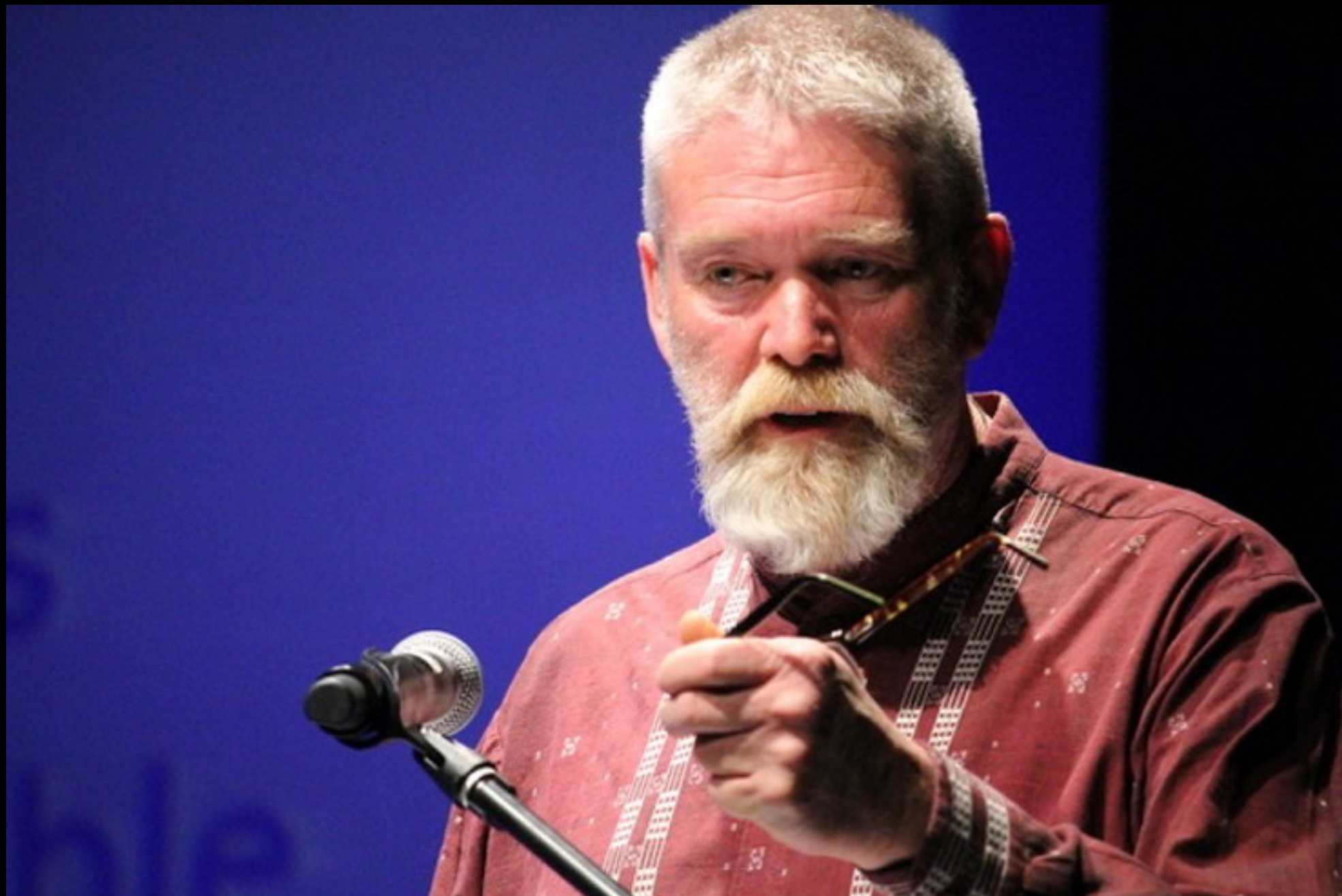




Ben Drysdale 🏰 · Aug 22, 2019 · 1 min read



## Discussing Disgust



Rebus artistic director Robin Davidson partnered with Bradley Foxlewin, a mental health lived experience advocate and psychotherapist, to lead a one day workshop on the experience of disgust in the therapeutic alliance. The workshop was attended by nine people, including professional therapists, people with lived experiences of mental health challenges and others seeking to understand more fully the topic. The workshop drew on Bradley's training in Gestalt psychotherapy, Robin's work in the Theatre of the Oppressed, and his recent training in the pedagogy of movement theatre with Giovanni Fusetti in Italy. One of the many highlights of the workshop, the unpacking of a single moment of a relationship affected by drug use, conducted with participants, was deeply moving and the source of much reflection on the impacts and consequences of disgust.

[#MentalHealth](#) [#MentalIllness](#) [#disgust](#) [#Workshop](#)





## Meet the Board: Daniel Savage – General Board Member

Rebus wouldn't be able to do all the great work we do without the support and guidance of our volunteer board. So we thought we'd introduce you to them, one at a time to show our appreciation for all they do for us!



Daniel Savage joined the Rebus Board in June 2019. Daniel has been a practicing visual artist based in Canberra for over a decade, exhibiting nationally and has developed a reputation for creating dynamic, engaging, and conceptually rigorous work. His practice is often self-referential, employing his individual experience of disability as a point of difference to engage audiences in exploring and reassessing established ideas and preconceptions that exist within society.

Daniel is also an active advocate for disability access, inclusion, and representation in the arts, having worked alongside major arts festivals, organisations and institutions to increase awareness and engagement.

He brings to the board his extensive knowledge of art and disability, his broad connections within both the contemporary art and disability community, and his passion for developing the skills, reputation and critical discourse of artists with disabilities.

[#Governance](#) [#BoardMembers](#) [#Inclusion](#) [#Disability](#) [#DisabilityRights](#) [#Accessibility](#)





## Rebits'n'Pieces - July News

### A Tender Thing



This week we began rehearsals for 'A Tender Thing'. The project aims to develop the skills of Canberra theatre artists with a disability (including mental illness), or other forms of disadvantage, as a bridge between recreational or community drama programs and an emerging arts practise. Participants will create an original performance loosely based on Romeo and Juliet: the most famous celebration of romantic love in English-speaking theatre. The script will include text from the original play and writing from the group.

The project is being led by Heidi Silberman, lead tutor in our '[Inclusive Drama with Rebus](#)' classes at The Hub In Phillip, and features participants from the classes, who want to take the next step in their acting careers.

### Bridges or Barricades



This week also marked the beginning of our second Bridges or Barricades program in Partnership with Multicultural Youth Services. The program will be delivered Telopea Park School using theatre to address young peoples' experiences of conflict.

Led by Rebus associate artist Ali Clinch, older students will seek stories from their younger counterparts about their experiences of conflict, and will then go off and create interactive theatre pieces using the model of [Forum Theatre](#). They will then perform the pieces to the younger students, who are given the opportunity to intervene in the problematic scenarios presented, in order to work together to find ways to resolve conflict they experience in their lives.

### Mill House Ventures Social Enterprise Accelerator



Cara and Ben were recently asked to speak on a panel of fellow social entrepreneurs in front of the new cohort of participants in the [Mill House Social Enterprise Accelerator](#) program. Having completed the program in 2017, it was great to be able to share their learning journey and talk about Rebus' range of activities, and how they relate to our mission, vision, and social impact goals.

[#InformationLinkagesandCapacityBuilding](#) [#NDIA](#) [#InclusiveDramawithRebus](#)  
[#ATenderThing](#) [#Shakespeare](#) [#RomeoandJuliet](#) [#BridgesorBarricades](#)  
[#MulticulturalYouthServices](#) [#TelopeaParkSchool](#) [#CoolingConflicts](#) [#MillHouseVentures](#)  
[#SocialEnterprise](#) [#SocialEnterpriseAccelerator](#) [#Inclusion](#) [#Inclusivepractice](#)





## Callout for People with Disability to participate in community consultation



### Access All Areas - Justice

A community education project to improve accessibility of justice services in the ACT.

Do you have a story about the barriers faced by people with disabilities interacting with justice services in the ACT? We want to hear it!

Rebus is a Canberra based, mixed-ability theatre company that uses the interactive model of [Forum Theatre](#) as a community education and training tool around social issues. Rebus is seeking expressions of interest from people with disabilities to participate in a half-day workshop to share stories about challenges they have faced in interacting with justice services in the ACT.

These stories will then be used to develop an inclusion training program for staff from justice services across the ACT. It is important to note that justice services are not limited to criminal justice settings. They may include civil matters or any matters where legal contracts are involved such as employment or housing.

The workshop will consist of various physical activities and exercises as well as discussion, which will be adapted around the requirements of the workshop participants. Join us in this workshop and have your say about how justice services in the ACT can bridge the gap between their accessibility policies and practice.

The workshop will be held on Saturday September 14 from 1pm-5pm at the Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street, Canberra City. Participants in the workshop will include members of the public with a disability and a cast of four actors who will be performing the scenarios, consisting entirely of people with a disability.

Each workshop participant will receive a \$100 per diem for taking the time to attend. There are limited places available in this workshop. To express your interest in participating, or if you have any questions, please contact Rebus either by email via [info@rebustheatre.com](mailto:info@rebustheatre.com) or phone on 0403 815 784.

This project is funded by the [National Disability Insurance Agency's 'Information, Linkages and Capacity Building' Program](#).

[#JusticeServices](#) [#Police](#) [#Lawyers](#) [#CorrectionalOfficers](#) [#PeoplewithDisability](#)  
[#DisabilityRights](#) [#PeoplewithaDisability](#) [#Inclusion](#) [#Inclusivepractice](#) [#Accessibility](#)  
[#AccessAllAreas](#)





Ben Drysdale 🏰 · Jul 2, 2019 · 1 min read



## Artistic Director teaching in free Clemente Drama Program

Performance students wanted for free Drama Program!

Rebus Theatre's Artistic Director, Robin Davidson, will be teaching free drama classes for adults who have had set-backs in their life as part of a partnership between Clemente and Australian Catholic University.



**When:** 9:30am – 12:30pm from Friday 26th July. Classes run every Friday morning for 13 weeks

**Where:** Australian Catholic University in Watson

**Cost:** Free

Clemente and the Australian Catholic University are offering 'Performance: The Nature of Drama' a university class open to adults who have had set-backs in their life.

Do you want to build confidence, meet new people and learn performance techniques? Ever wanted to try drama, but the cost was a barrier? Join teacher Robin Davidson and begin your journey in a safe and inclusive environment.

All levels of skill are welcome. The class is part of the Certificate in Liberal Studies and students are able to go on and learn other subjects.

Contact Clemente [via email here](#) or [visit the website here](#).

[#PeoplewithDisability](#) [#PeoplewithaDisability](#) [#Firsttimeperformers](#) [#Drama](#)  
[#DramaClasses](#) [#AustralianCatholicUniversity](#) [#ActingWorkshops](#)