



Entertainment – ‘Acting Up’ page 6

ENTERTAINMENT

Acting up

"Giving things a go" is 21-year-old Meyne Wyatt's motto and it's helped him establish a successful acting career.

TALENTED YOUNG ABORIGINAL ACTOR MEYNE WYATT IS MAKING AN IMPRESSION IN SYDNEY THEATRE INDUSTRY CIRCLES, SCORING ROLES IN TWO GRIFFIN THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTIONS THIS YEAR.

Meyne is starring in a new play about contemporary Sydney life called *Silent Disco*, by Australian playwright Lachlan Philpott. It is set in an inner-city high school and draws on the playwright's experience as a teacher.

Besides asking questions about the state of our education system, *Silent Disco* is a delicate love story between a quiet Aboriginal boy, Jasyn Squid (Meyne Wyatt), and a mouthy white girl, Tamara (Sophie Hensser). The story revolves around their families and each other, and the long-lasting impact of the decisions teenagers make.

Meyne grew up in Kalgoorlie and went to high school in Perth. He graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) last year and prior to that he spent a year studying an Aboriginal Theatre Course at the Western Australian Academy for Performing Arts (WAPPA).

While at NIDA he performed in a variety of plays including *Hamlet*, *The Lord Of The Flies*, *The Hour We Know Nothing Of Each Other*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Threepenny Opera* and *Gift*, and received rave reviews for his performance in his previous play, *The Brothers Size*.

"*Silent Disco* is my second play outside of NIDA. My first was *The Brothers Size* where I played an ex-con coming out of prison," says Meyne. "It was an African American play and it was about the relationship between estranged brothers

and making the choice of going straight or returning to a life of crime."

While many actors find it hard to stay in regular work, Meyne says the plays he has already been in have raised his profile.

"Being in plays in Sydney gives me exposure. In this industry you might not always be in work, but you need to keep yourself busy.

"I am trying to get my foot into as many doors as I possibly can. I am keen for anything really. I have had auditions for films and TV and I am waiting to hear back from some of those things."

Meyne has been interested in the theatre since he studied drama at school, but did not think he would pursue it as a career until he got into WAPPA.

"It was an opportunity for a year and I thought I'd give it a go and see what happened," he says.

"Giving things a go" is an attitude Meyne believes in and it is his advice for other young people wanting to pursue a career in acting.

"You need to have confidence in yourself. As long as you have the hunger there are opportunities out there and you have to take them."

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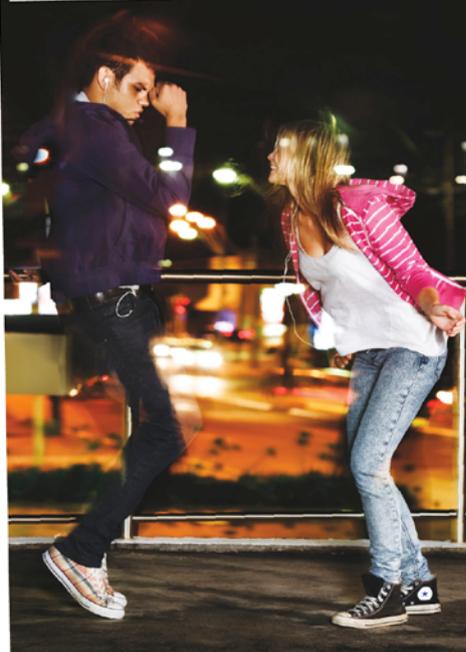
Silent Disco also stars another up-and-coming Indigenous actor, Kirk Page.

Kirk comes from a theatrical family (Bangarra's Stephen and David Page are his cousins) and he has performed with Bangarra and in the hit musical *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, among other things.

Silent Disco won the prestigious Griffin Award in 2009 and earlier this year won the Aurora Global Age Project award in The US. The show at the Stables Theatre, Griffin Theatre Company, 10 Nimrod St, Kings Cross, Sydney, runs until 4 June. It also plays at the Butter Factory, Wodonga, 15-25 June.

For bookings, call (02) 8019 0292 or go to www.griffintheatre.com.au

YOUNG ACTOR MEYNE WYATT STARS IN SILENT DISCO.



VIBE SCHOOL

Issue 171
Years 7-8



Meyne Wyatt in Silent Disco

Meyne Wyatt is establishing his acting career. He is currently playing the part of Jasyn Squid in the play Silent Disco.

Meyne grew up in Kalgoorlie and went to high school in Perth, Western Australia. He studied Aboriginal Theatre at the Western Australian Academy for Performing Arts (WAPPA) and graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) last year.



READ *Acting Up* on page 6

ACTIVITY 1 BUILDING READING SKILLS

- skimming and scanning for information
- reading headings, sub-headings, text boxes and pictures
- reading for meaning
- making connections between the text and your world

There are three levels of comprehension questions:

Literal The answer is located in one sentence in the text.

Inferred You need to make links between text and graphics (such as photographs, illustrations, maps and tables) and what you already know.

Applied The answer is in your background knowledge, what you already know or feel.

Shade one bubble.

1. According to the text, actor Meyne Wyatt is

- retiring from his acting career.
- starting to make a big impression with his acting career.
- writing a new play called *Silent Disco*.
- living in Kalgoorlie.

2. The text tells us that Meyne performed in plays including *Hamlet*, *The Lord of the Flies* and *The Brothers Size*.

The purpose of this list is to

3. What is the relationship between the photo and the main text? (inferred)

4. At www.griffintheatre.com.au people

- register their reviews of *Silent Disco*.
- make their booking to see the performance of *Silent Disco*.
- buy a copy of the play.
- join in a chat line with Meyne Wyatt.



ACTIVITY 2 LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – SPELLING

The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined.

Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.

1. Meyne Wyatt is establishing a sucesful acting career.

2. He is staring in a new play.

3. It draws on the writer's experience as a teecher.

4. The story revolves around their familys.

5. He had grate reviews apout his performance.

Each sentence has one word that is incorrect.

Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

1. They had to make a choise.

2. Meyne studyed drama at school.

3. He has a good atitude about life.

4. He has a lot of confdance in himself.

5. There are a lot of oportunitys for him now.



ACTIVITY 3 LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – GRAMMAR

Shade one bubble.

1. Which words correctly complete this sentence?

Meyne likes to rehearse for his acting roles, takes a lot of time, he doesn't spend as much time with his friends as he'd like.

- what whether
- what why
- which because
- which so

2. Which word correctly completes this sentence?

Australia has a lot of struggling actors; we need to support their careers.

- besides
- however
- therefore
- otherwise



ACTIVITY 4 LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – PUNCTUATION

Shade one bubble.

1. Three (3) apostrophes (') have been left out of these sentences.

Where do the missing apostrophes go?

It s an opportunity for his career to take off as he performs in more plays.

2. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

"You need to have confidence in yourself," says Meyne.

"You need to have confidence in yourself says Meyne."

You need to have confidence "in yourself" says Meyne.

You need to have confidence in yourself, "says Meyne."



ACTIVITY 5 WRITING A BIOGRAPHICAL RECOUNT

A Biographical Recount sets out the stages in a person's life.

Here is how Biographical Recounts are typically structured:

Recount	Social purpose	Stages	Variable phases – for example
Biographical	Recounts the stages in a person's life	Orientation Record of stages	Introduces the person and outlines their achievements Early life School life Career highlights

Use the information in this text and your own research to write a **BIOGRAPHICAL RECOUNT** about Meyne Wyatt's life and acting career.

Think about:

- including personal and professional information, elaborations and other evidence to support your ideas.

Remember to:

- research your topic and plan your writing
- write in sentences
- pay attention to your spelling and punctuation
- use a new paragraph for each new idea
- choose your words carefully to outline the person's life in chronological order
- check and edit your writing so that it is clear for a reader.