

Overcoming obstacles and finding confidence through Speech and Drama

Not everyone knows what Speech and Drama is all about, so we thought the best way to learn more would be hear directly from students. We asked 2 students from Speech and Drama Studios SA (Chelsea, taught by Lois Brimblecombe and Kelly Bickle, and Adrian, taught by Lois Brimblecombe and Laurie Rea) to share a bit about themselves and why they each study Speech and Drama and undertake AMEB Exams; how it is helping them overcome personal challenges and realise their potential.

How long have you been going to



6 years.
C **Chelsea**
(14 years old)



2 years.
A **Adrian**
(22 years old)

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES

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Why did you start doing Speech and Drama classes?

C I have a number of medical conditions including ASD, so it was quite difficult for me to stay focused, remember everything I needed to do, organise myself, and control my anxiety. I started Speech and Drama classes to help me overcome these challenges. It's taught me to keep calm, relax my nerves, plan ahead and work well with others.

A I have Asperger's syndrome and anxiety, and also have difficulties in processing information. I can be very sensitive to stimuli, particularly noise and movement, this contributes to my anxiety and therefore I have issues with speech and conversation.

My mother has been exploring ways to improve this and suggested I go to Speech and Drama classes after finding out about them.

What do you like about Speech and Drama classes and what would you say to someone who doesn't really know what it's all about?

C Speech and Drama classes have been a huge part of my life and I am very grateful for all the opportunities it has given me.

Speaking to people in positions of power or public speaking to a large audience is the number one anxiety and fear-provoking activity for most people, and especially for children. Speaking, communicating and speech can be tricky for anyone but it can be especially difficult for children who are shy, who have a disability, who are from a non-English speaking background, or who have a speech impediment.

However, if I told you that you could turn your fears on their head, and you could surprise yourself by getting so much fun and enjoyment from going to Speech and Drama classes every week, you might not believe me. That's exactly what happens for me every Wednesday night at my Speech and Drama class. Every week, you will find a group of students, including me, having a wonderful time learning how to speak clearly, recite poetry, present prose pieces, learning to act and making lasting memories and friendships.

A The lessons accommodate my interests, particularly trains and railways.

I have been working with my teacher, looking at many types of texts, including poetry and prose and she's been teaching me how to make these texts sound interesting when reading them aloud.

We also play word games in the sessions and I enjoy them. I have also enjoyed the one-to-one learning experience and found it quite helpful in improving my speech and communication.

What have been some highlights for you?

C One of my highlights is coming first place in the prose reading at the Balaklava Eisteddfod. It was really fun and I felt super confident.

I recently presented my own short story to my English class using all of the performance techniques I had learned, and all of the students clapped and cheered, they loved it so much.

A I have been going to TAFE, studying Information Technology for the past few years. I have completed Certificate II and am now undertaking Cert III. I have found some of the work quite challenging, but my lecturers have been giving me support with it.

Hopefully I'll become more confident with speech and communication which may help with forming friendships in the groups I am involved with. I am very fortunate to be involved in these activities and value the help.

Do you do AMEB Speech & Drama exams?

C Each year I learn and practise so that I can take an AMEB exam and this year I am doing Grade 5. Having the opportunity to take exams is fantastic as it allows me to see how well I can do and how far I can reach to achieve my best. I can put all of my weekly learning into a real result by getting a good mark for my exam. I always feel very proud when I achieve a high result and it challenges me to try again the next year. If you have a child who is struggling to communicate, who is shy or isn't able to speak up for themselves, Speech and Drama classes and the AMEB exams are the perfect way to help them to turn their fears into fun, their anxieties into opportunities and their shyness into confidence.

Speech and Drama also helps me sing more clearly and get higher marks in my AMEB singing exams and when I participate in Eisteddfods.

A I recently undertook a Speech and Drama exam and am proud to have done so.

Another one of my areas of interest is music. I've been learning the organ for several years and have done three exams. I also play cello with the Norwood Symphony Orchestra and I sing with the male choir of the Young Adelaide Voices. I enjoy going to rehearsals and performing in concerts.

I usually feel nervous before exams and concerts, but they help me overcome my anxiety.