

PRESENT TENSE & THE ARTS ACADEMY, FEDERATION UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA



THE LOVELY WAR PROJECT

An overview of works created by the Graduating Acting Company Federation University Australia, the First Year Acting Company in collaboration with Present Tense.

Production photography by Jodie Hutchinson



INTRODUCTION KIM DURBAN

The proposal to mount *Oh What a Lovely War* as a testimony to the ANZAC Centenary celebrations in Ballarat was both irresistible and dangerous: irresistible due to its appropriateness, and dangerous because this is known quite clearly in history as an anti-war play. Joan Littlewood made no secret of her political position and the original production changed the face of British theatre. The emotions that surrounded this important occasion in Australian dramatic training at the Arts Academy can be seen as equally incendiary, in inter-generational gatherings fraught with honour, grief, patriotism and pride, music and silence. The project successfully engaged with history yet dwelt in the present. It changed all of the participants. As a theatre piece, it entertained and confronted its audience, and as a training project it reached excellence on all fronts, whether in the theatre, the studio or the street. What follows is a comprehensive report on all the layers of this unique artistic event, and clear evidence of an important contribution to the artists, the university and community of Ballarat.

Associate Professor Kim Durban

Program Leader BA (Acting)

June 10th, 2015

OVERVIEW

The Lovely War Project was lead by the Present Tense Ensemble in a partnership between Federation University and students, the City of Ballarat, Ballarat Heritage Weekend, the Ballarat RSL and other community organisations. It was designed to engage the whole community and visitors to Ballarat. This project activates a series of performance based events, focussing on ANZAC Day in April and then Heritage Weekend in May, with songs and performed images and moments from World War One era. The activations begin within the University performing arts curriculum and are designed to reach out to the broader community and engage the students and the public together in considering the heritage and meaning of Australia's commitment to war over the last 100 years.

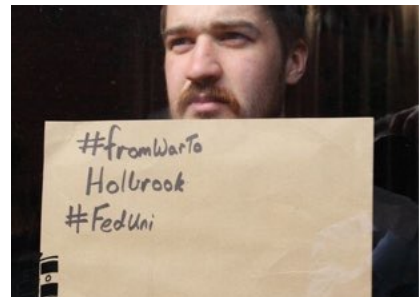
The #LovelyWar project was organised to use performance and music to make new connections and contemporary resonance in the local ANZAC Story.

How might artists respond to this New War scenario, where globalisation, risk transference and privatization of militia means that 'war itself becomes part of an economic life that is no longer under political control or subject to political limitation?' Joan Littlewood opened the eyes and hearts of her audiences in 1963 and we have followed her path in our 2015 production of Oh What A Lovely War.

We seek to connect again with the roots of our own community to reconfirm a civil society that resists violence of any kind. To this end, this production is the centre-piece of a guerrilla theatre project that has been taking Ballarat by storm since February this year, led by Bryce Ives and Nathan Gilkes and supported by the Arts Academy Graduating and first year actors and the City of Ballarat. There have been radio interviews beamed across regional Australia, community sing-a-longs with the Legacy Ladies, morning teas with the RSL and street performances in the main street for the Gunfire Breakfast on ANZAC Day morning. Our students have gone on an epic creative journey in their art making, yet none of these activations have sought to glorify current wars or sentimentalise wars of the past. Rather, these meetings between the young and the old, those yet to experience war and those that have lived its reality, aim to create a society that is resilient to the temptations of war, whether old or new.

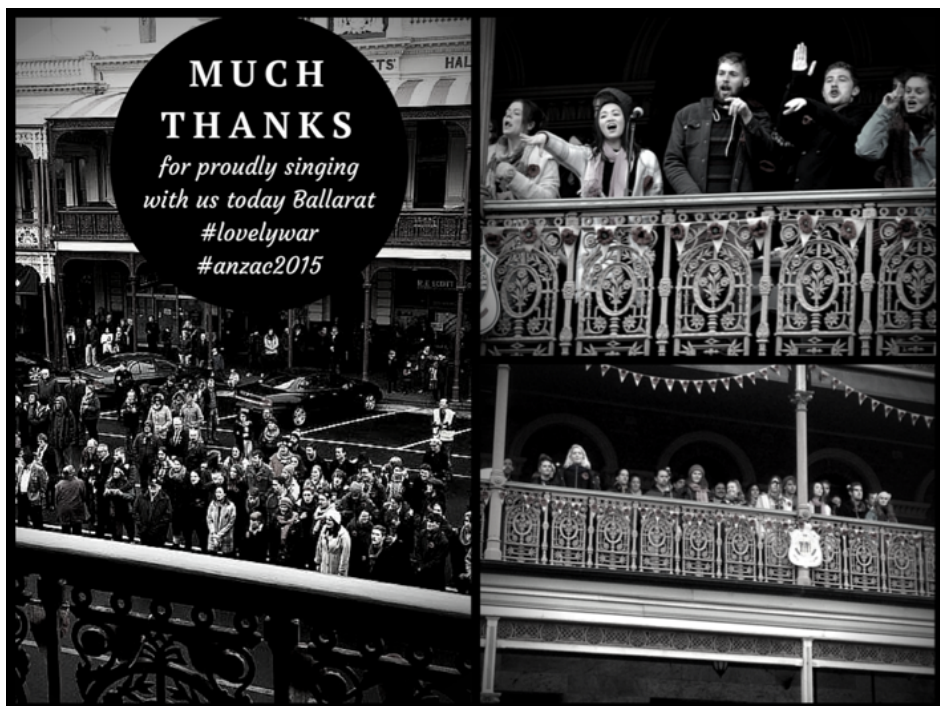
Tonight our young artists meet their audience through Joan Littlewood's Oh What A Lovely War, re-imagined by Bryce Ives and Nathan Gilkes. Their production while faithful to the radical spirit of its author, takes a very 21st century, post modern view of war and does so through an art-form that has always had war in its sights; the theatre.

Dr Angela Campbell
May, 2015



Nathan Gilkes and Bryce Ives (Present Tense) spent over 40 days investigating and creating a series of works around the #LovelyWar project with the Graduating Acting Company and the First Year Actors at the Arts Academy Federation University Australia. The project was supported by the City of Ballarat Community Impact Grant, Regional Arts Victoria and many community partners. The major outcomes included:

- 7 public performances of Oh What a Lovely War at the Helen Macpherson Smith Theatre, with the Graduating Acting Company.
 - 1 community activation, on the balcony of the George Hotel for ANZAC Day for the Gunfire Breakfast, with songs and music from the First Year Acting Company, the Graduating Acting Company, the Sing Australia Choir, the Ballarat Memorial Brass Band and Federation University Pipe Band.
 - 3 pop-up concerts at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, for Ballarat Heritage Weekend, working with the Art Gallery of Ballarat Ladies Auxiliary, the First Year Acting Company and the Graduating Acting Company.
 - 2 pop-up concerts at the Regional Living Expo Conference, working with Regional Arts Victoria.
 - 1 video shoot, interviewing members of the Ballarat RSL Day Club collaborating with Wind Sky Productions and the George Hotel.
 - Performances of songs and stories from our work on ABC Radio around Australia on the Rhianna Patrick Program, ABC Ballarat Breakfast, Power FM Breakfast and Win Television News.
 - 1 community activation for Ballarat Heritage Weekend, the graduating acting company, and the first-year acting company, working with the City of Ballarat and Ballarat Heritage Weekend, retracing the steps of the original ANZAC march.
 - Initiated and facilitated meetings between Visual Arts program and City of Ballarat leading to inclusion of 2nd year video projects in foyer of HMST, and uploading of these videos onto the Gold Museum website as an example of Vis Art activation on the same source material (Letters from the Front send back to Ballarat).
 - 1 pop-up concert for the UNESCO Heritage Summit at the Art Gallery of Ballarat.
 - Regular morning teas, open rehearsals and shared conversations with the Ballarat RSL, the Ballarat Legacy Club and Sing Australia.
 - Shared rehearsals and investigations between the First Year Acting Company and the Graduating Acting Company, encouraging greater dialogue, collaboration and collegiality.
-



Publicity for community activations for Ballarat Heritage Weekend and the Gunfire Breakfast on ANZAC Day

IMPACT OF #LOVELYWAR

- Over seventy participating artists from Federation University Australia's Arts Academy first year and graduating acting company.
 - Over ten professional artists working on the project, including Bryce Ives, Nathan Gilkes and Laura Burzacott (community activation funding supported by this grant), Rob Sowinski, Dr. Angela Campbell, Adam Powers etc.
 - Community artists: one hundred community choralists from Sing Australia Choir, for ANZAC Day Activation, twenty members of the Ballarat Memorial Brass Band and five members of the Federation University Pipe Band.
 - Over eight hundred audience members attended the season of Oh What a Lovely War, including Councillor Samantha McIntosh, Catherine King MP, the Vice Chancellor of Federation University, the Presidents of Ballarat RSL, Ballarat Legacy Club and Sing Australia Choir, and the CEO of Regional Arts Victoria.
 - Over two hundred and seventy audience members attended the three pop-up concerts at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, for Ballarat Heritage Weekend.
 - Over sixty audience members of the UNESCO World Heritage Summit Pop-Up Performance.
 - Over ninety community members participated in our shared dialogues, mostly senior citizens joining us for morning teas and sing-alongs including members of Sing Australia, Ballarat RSL and Ballarat Legacy Club.
 - Estimated audience of two hundred and fifty for Ballarat Heritage Weekend activation and audience of six hundred for our pop up concert at the Regional Living Expo.
 - Over 372 posts to Instagram, Twitter and Facebook, reaching over 58,931 unique followers, or 313,465 unique impressions.
 - Local audience reach through Power FM and Voice FM, and national radio coverage through ABC Radio.
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COMMUNITY RESPONSE FROM TWITTER

Cheryl Graham

@CherylGraham4

Oh What a #LovelyWar was powerful, emotional, hilarious, sad, shocking, Professional. Loved it #fromwarto very powerful anti war statement played magnificently by @FederationUniAu grad actors FAB

David James

@DavidJamesMcN

Still processing my reaction to @FedUniAustralia's Oh What A Lovely War. Intense, humorous, and virtuosic theatre. Wartime death tolls regularly announced throughout the work sharply reminding the audience that it can go #fromwarto a statistic. Seeing a relationship between the artists and the community developed alongside the work is incredible. Congratulations all.
#lovelywar @present_t

Sam Henson

@HoCBallarat

It is easy & a pleasure to advocate great performances! Thanks to Bryce & Nate for exceptional work with our students. @present_t + #FedUni acting company = outstanding success

Esther Anatolitis

@_esther

Delighted to be here! Big respect to @FedUniAustralia and @present_t for taking theatre to the streets of Ballarat.

David Battersby

@FedUniVC

FedUni's Arts Academy performance "O What a Lovely War" #fromwarto was outstanding - evocative & it had you laughing, crying & singing along

Lucinda Horrocks

@lucinda_windsky

Saw @FedUniAustralia production of 'Lovely War' last night & it's fabulous. Only a few tix left. #lovelywar

Aubrey Flood

@aubreyflood

Last night I witnessed 'Oh What A Lovely War' by the @FedUniAustralia Acting Company. I am still overwhelmed and amazed by it. #lovelywar

Mark Eddy

@markeddy1

#fromwarto FedUni Oh What A Lovely War - congrats on a brilliant performance to all! Laugh, cry, shocking truth.

dec carter.

@thatssodeclan

It's rare you see a piece of theatre that truly touches you. Beyond proud of my peers and friends in #lovelywar. #fromwarto @present_t

Wilma Essing

@WilFashion

#fromwarto #ballarat #federationuni #welldone #staggeringstatistics

Elfenshot

@elfenshot

#fromwarto Fantastic effort from Fed Uni tonight! Every emotion.

Councillor. Belinda Coates

@BelindaCoates

Terrific performances last night @FedUniAustralia Oh! what a lovely war! #fromwarto recognition of the past and striving for peace!

Angelica Clunes

@HamJellyCup

#fromwarto a lovely lovely night at the theatre! Thanks FedUni and super thanks Bryce Ives, love your work.

Sam Henson

@HoCBallarat

Powerful performance from 3rd year acting students @FedUniAustralia. #fromwarto something to be proud of! Well done.

Barry Kay

@bangerk

#fromwarto oh what a fine show! Best piece of student theatre I can remember. Joan Littlewood would have been proud. So powerful at times.

Tahlia Azaria

@tahlia_azaria

Bryce Ives. Ballarat. What a welcome. #fromwarto

Paul Hampton

@Hampton1Paul

The wonderful paradox: sickening anger re WW1 politics with exhilaration of the life force of theatre #OhWhatALovelyWar @FedUniAustralia

Bruce Roberts

@bruceberts

Outstanding, engaging & provocative. If you're in #Ballarat this weekend #LoveyWar is a #MustSee @HoCBallarat @CatherineKingMP @RegionalArtsVic



COMMUNITY RESPONSE FROM FACEBOOK

Belinda Coates

Terrific performance last night! Congratulations to all involved. #fromwarto recognition of the futility of war and striving for peace.

Esther Anatolitis

There's a lot of work being made about war at the moment. Far too much of it strays dangerously into glorification – and that's just too great a risk in these times of recklessly unsophisticated political leadership. Tonight I saw #OhWhatALovelyWar by the Graduating Actors Company at the Federation University Arts Academy. It was deeply impressive and deeply moving precisely because it offers a whole new vocabulary for contemporary connections to the absurdity of war. It was also funny, ribald, chilling, shocking and uplifting. Bryce Ives and Nate Gilkes have fostered a life-long generosity in these students – towards themselves as well as towards one another – in fact they're all still there right now, reflecting and mopping and talking it through... I'm going to sleep well tonight.

Sharon Upham

Blown away by a fantabulous performance! LOL your final score is 20/10! ps ... Such gifted performers & what lovely young people to boot. ... How lucky is Ballarat to have such a fine Drama Academy!

Sandra Simmonds

#fromwarto seeing the very talented graduating actors of Federation University in a wonderful performance of Oh What a Lovely War tonight. It was at times very clever and very moving. Congratulations troupe!

Safiye Vurdu

Congratulations to everyone involved in this project!! Such moving, passionate work from all xx

Barry Kay

Fine, fine work. Great student theatre! Great theatre! Wonderful reimagining of Oh! What a Lovely War! Congratulation all concerned! The power of art in action. #fromwarto striving to remember the mistakes and learn not to repeat them - no-one wins a war.

Zac Dixon

Thank you all. You should all be so proud of this piece. It was moving and thought provoking. Each of you had beautiful presence and connection, Thank you for sharing this with us all. Love you all.

Verity Wood

I am so touched by the grace of your performance and the ability to convey stories of those who injured war. Thank you

Holly Chadwick

Wow. Thirds years you blew me away. Such a beautiful show, congrats xx

Victorian College of the Arts (VCA)

Four VCA alumni are leading a unique project in Ballarat, investigating how collective memories linger and actively live on. Kim Durban (MA Direction 2000), Bryce Ives & Nathan Gilkes (Post Grad Director 2010) and Angela Campbell (DipActing 1989) are collaborating with the Graduating Acting Company at Federation University Australia and members of the Ballarat Community. Read more about the #LovelyWar project here: <http://bit.ly/1EKihab>

Voice FM

#LovelyWar came to @VoiceBallarat yesterday! We are delighted to play our part in helping to promote the upcoming performances of this amazing group from the graduating students of Fed Uni.

Jary Nemo

What a fantastic rendition. My most appreciative congratulations to cast and crew. The enormity and complexity of the task of bringing this show to the stage is hidden by the engaging experience. But is evident none the less. Such attention and hard work is a great reward to an audience and I look forward to seeing what comes next.

Patrick Durnan Silva

BALLARAT IS WHERE IT'S AT!!!!

Go and see the Graduating 3rd Year Acting Company of Arts Academy, Federation University Australia with their incredible performance of "Oh What A Lovely War" brought to life from Present Tense's Bryce and Nate. #fromwarto brave, bold and challenging theatre.

Amy Tinderbox

Great job yesterday, especially with the unexpected crowd participation! Made it very interesting indeed. And I actually teared up in Amazing Grace- powerful stuff :)

Lucinda Horrocks

I'm lost for words. Last night's performance got to me on many different levels. I'm still absorbing the impact. It was fabulous. Congratulations to cast & crew. Such a complex work to realise so completely. Well done. Very well done all.

Angela Campbell

Fantastic work tonight everyone, thanks to you all and special thanks to Bryce and Nate for taking us all on such an adventure. Looking forward to seeing the show again, there is so much to unravel and to think about.

Carolyn Priddle

Absolutely amazing production. Loved every minute of it, spent quite a bit of time in tears, followed by a good laugh. A real roller coaster of emotions. Congratulations to each and every one of you. So pleased I am coming back on Friday night. You must feel so proud Bryce and Nate not only of your students but what you have created. Sincere thanks. Carolyn

Bruce Roberts

Beyond impressive and very proud of you all!

Julianne Everleigh

I saw extraordinary listening. I enjoyed your energy and detail and I want you to relish in a hugely successful run of OWALW. Thank you all

Stephanie King

Today I reflected as an audience member on the experience last night of seeing "Oh What a Lovely War". This is how I felt. Throughout this unceasingly engaging piece, the polarity for me was intense. In this theatre, today, on this stage, more than 30 talented performers, actors, musicians, dancers, singers, worked entertainingly and convincingly hard, communicating magnificence beautifully through music, space, voice and body which was delightful to watch. At the same time for me, the dreadful weight of the reality of war was so powerfully woven into the performance, it broke my heart.

The presentation of blatant blindness succumbing to the spoils of what seems to amount to the seven deadly sins; lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, pride, promoted the incomprehensible dismissal of the value of millions of lost lives. With no country/region escaping responsibility for their own contribution. And only to be reminded toward the end of the show that even in the short history from 1914, we continue to incite WAR to this very day. Therefore as a human race, manifesting that we have learned...nothing. All that, in this theatre, on this stage, from these generous and brave performers. Extraordinary. That's precisely why I love theatre. Thank you cast, crew and directors, Nate Gilkes and Bryce Ives and break a leg on opening tonight.





#LovelyWar cast performs at the Regional Living Expo 2015

ONLINE & MEDIA COVERAGE



Ballarat Courier, April 4

STURT Street was alive with the sound of Federation University performing arts students on Thursday. The Federation University Graduating Actors Company students were warming up their vocal chords for next month's Ballarat Heritage Weekend. The students have been behind the scenes preparing to perform a series of war-themed shows, including the epic 1960s musical *Oh, What a Lovely War*.

<http://www.thecourier.com.au/story/2990100/ballarat-heritage-weekend-to-pay-homage-to-anzac-centenary/>

Power FM, April 24

In the lead-up to the 100th Anniversary of ANZAC Day, Jules and Ross had some of the Graduating Actors Company of Federation University Australia's Arts Academy in the studio to talk about their production *"Oh What A Lovely War"*.

<http://www.powerfmballarat.com.au/power-brekkie/blog/47837-fed-uni-performance>

Regional Living Expo Performance at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre for Regional Arts Victoria, May 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XB3Ei-TY5dk>

ABC Radio, around Australia, April 26

The Rhianna Patrick Program. Interview with Bryce Ives and Nathan Gilkes, and performance of three songs recorded in the studios of ABC Melbourne.

https://soundcloud.com/abc_radio/wwi-songs-reinterpreted?in=abc_radio/sets/abcrhi-the-rhianna-patrick-1#t=0:01

Win Television Ballarat, April 10

Launch of Ballarat Heritage Weekend, performance on Sturt Street

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbq9_Ljwx60&feature=youtu.be



#LOVELYWAR

REIMAGINING 3 CLASSIC WARTIME SONGS
THIS SUNDAY EVENING ON ABC LOCAL RADIO
THE RHIANNA PATRICK PROGRAM
LIVE AFTER 8PM (AEST)



#LOVELYWAR

ACTIVATING THE GUNFIRE BREAKFAST
AT THE GEORGE HOTEL THIS ANZAC DAY
PERFORMING FROM 8AM



COMMUNITY RESPONSE VIA E-MAIL

Steve Davies, Member of the University Council

I just wanted to say the performance on Saturday night was superb. My guests and I had a fabulous time and it was great to be part of such a wonderful evening. The students clearly thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the audience interaction was spot on. The individual performances were top class. Please pass on my congratulations and thanks to all involved.

Maurie Keating, Secretary of Ballarat RSL

Thanks Bryce and Nate. It has been a pleasure to be involved and a very interesting and rewarding experience.

Carolyn Priddle, Sing Australia Choir Convenor

What an amazing time you have had. It is impossible for me to put words to the feelings which I have developed for both you and Nate and all of the students. So many of my Sing Australia members have the same feelings. It has been a wonderful experience for us all.

Little did I know when Bruce suggested that I contact you re the Gunfire Breakfast, what was to evolve from this. It's all so positive, just wonderful.

Anna Carr, Ballarat Legacy Club

We enjoyed your performance of ,o what a lovely war, very much thanks for the invite. It was indeed a privilege to have a small part in your production. I know that things like this don't just happen. Much work and preparation are needed to achieve the final result. It was very thought provoking, much food for thought. Keep up the good work

Dr Jenene Burke, Senior Lecturer | Associate Dean Learning and Teaching Faculty of Education and Arts

I attended the performance last night and wanted to express to you how much I enjoyed it. It was both heart-warming and thought-provoking. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with the cast members before and after the show. Congratulations to all involved and good luck for the remaining performances.

Dr. Sam Henson, Head of Campus (Ballarat) Federation University Australia

Once again Bryce, thanks to you and Nate for your dedicated work with our students. It has been a wonderful couple of months leading up to your performances and exposure has been outstanding. As I'm sure you are aware the whole town is talking about your students this year. This is a true testament to your work with them, and an inspiring example of University engagement.

Thanks again, and I'm looking forward to opening night!

Alexandra Tascas, President Ballarat RSL

Thank you all so much for making ANZAC Day 2015 something very special to the broader community of Ballarat but especially to our Veterans and of course our RSL members and their families. It was a wonderful experience that I and many others of our community will remember and often refer to over a glass or two I'm sure. These wonderful young respectful people made our day.

Julianne Eveleigh, Lecturer, Voice and Alexander Technique

I just wanted to reiterate that you are creating such wonderful opportunities for the third year students. Their engagement and commitment to this project is because of your undying energy to art and process. These students are getting a real insight into how art can integrate in community in thoughtful and authentic ways. How it lifts the spirits and gives meaning to life. I for one celebrate this extraordinary opportunity and the continued positive energy that both of you bring to this work. In a climate of uncertainty, burn-out and thoughtless governmental responses to arts education, you bring both valued and renewed energy to the Arts Academy which is priceless. I support whole heartedly the work you do and even though I don't have the time or space to be there in person with you and the third years at all these life-enforcing moments, I want to thank you for placing such value on the work that we prepare the students for and running with it in such innovative and thoughtful ways to give our third year students the opportunity to open up their minds to what is possible in an Arts practice. I am so looking forward to your production of Oh What A Lovely War. All the best

Associate Professor Kim Durban

**Lecturer and Program Leader | Acting | Arts Academy
Faculty of Education and Arts**

I back up everything that has been said here.

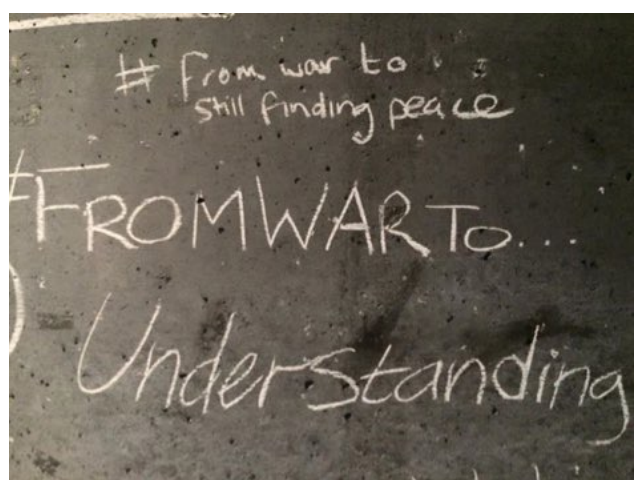
I attended the morning tea with the Legacy Ladies yesterday and was blown away by the relationship that was quickly established between the participants. They were kind enough to donate 150 hand knitted red poppies for our show and expressed their gratitude for the visit many times. It was clear that these community outreach activities are mutually respected and adding immensely to the Arts Academy profile, but also touching hearts.

Meanwhile the pedagogic advantage to our students, who are required to make contact with their new audiences, can never be underestimated. They are visibly growing in pride and confidence.

These outreach activities have a creative advantage and also respect the spirit of the original work by Joan Littlewood and Theatre Workshop in 1962. Thanks to your vision and energy Bryce and Nate, much has been achieved even before the theatre season commences.

Well done to all.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE TO THE WORK



ELL

From war to
still finding peace

FROM WAR TO.

ER!

FROM WAR TO...

Understanding

Congratulations
for telling the
story of the family
of war!

From war to
a new

from war
to family

#

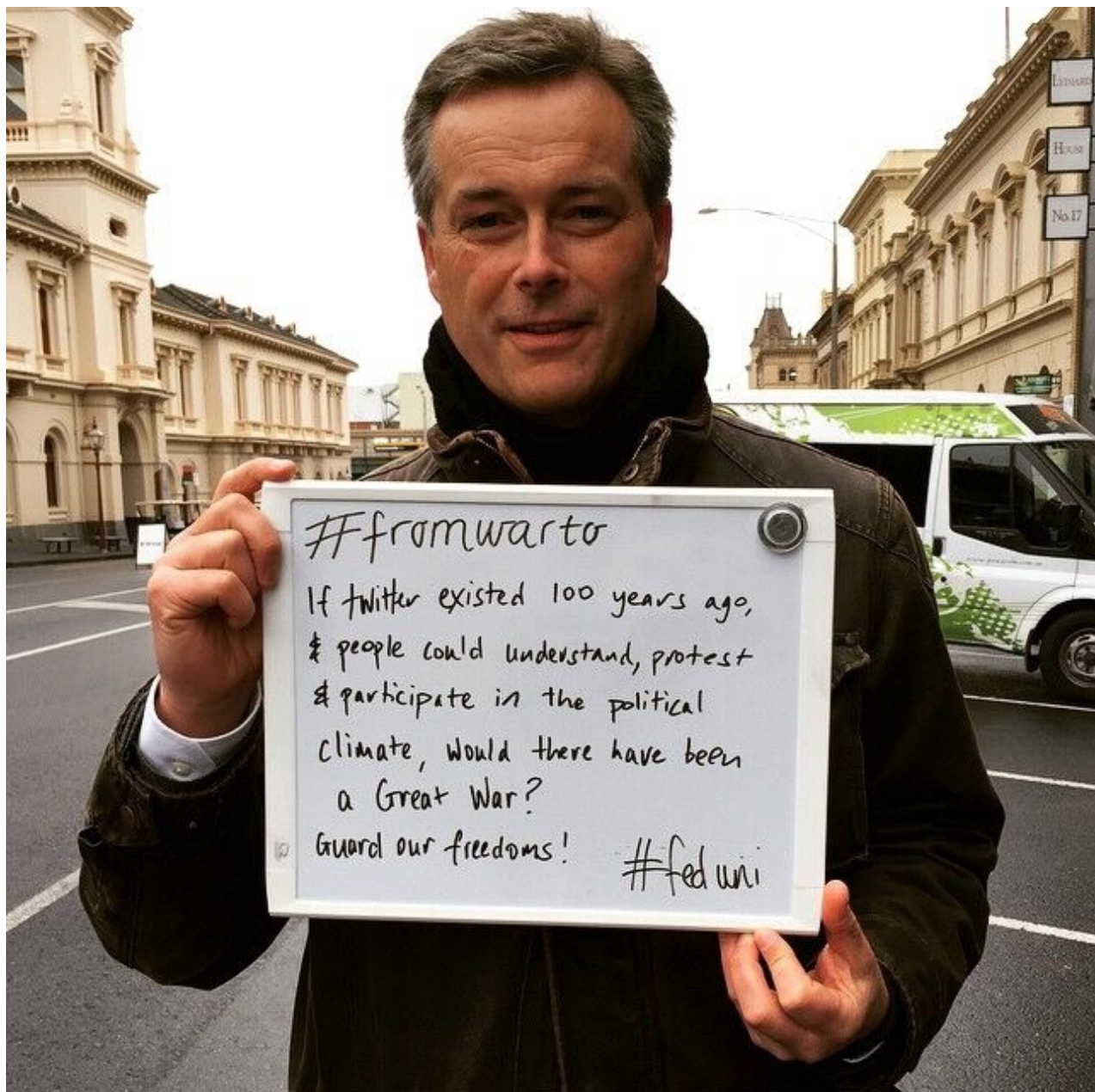
And at the
going down of
the sun, we
will remember
them...

From war to
Max's grandfather

from war
plenty m
where tha

How do we
the energy
by all

FROM WAR TO



APPENDIX 1 - DIRECTORS NOTES

We're not on any specific mission.

We're not attempting to rewrite history.

We're not here to debunk mythology, or to be jingoistic, or to tell you what you want to hear, or to educate you on our perspective.

Instead, tonight, we present our shared investigation, as the Centenary of Australia's involvement in the First World War dominates our national discourse.

We ask: what is war, and what does it do to the human animal?

Through our investigation, we wonder what we are capable of, remembering that our ensemble is roughly the same age as those women and men from Ballarat a century ago who signed up for King and Country.

We ask deep and personal questions of politics, of memory, conflict, of the scars that still exist today. Some of tonight may be poignant, other bits will be hard. We make no apologies for that. There is no one answer. War must be the most complicated and complex topic one can investigate.

We nod in appreciation, not towards governments that often make unfair and harsh policy, but instead to the women and men who today are still fighting in conflicts around the world.

We remember the victims, those that are documented and still make our nightly news bulletins, and equally those that we ignore or forget.

We wonder why so many women and men, Australian soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, are committing suicide. Over 250 since those two conflicts began.

We feel disgusted that in Ballarat we have veterans who are homeless. With so much money spent this year commemorating ANZAC Day, it's vulgar to think men and women who served live in poverty.

We wonder what would we do if we had served in Vietnam, or PNG, or in France or Gallipoli.

We feel honoured that so many members of the Ballarat community have been willing to sit with us in this investigation. To talk, to share stories, to inform our work. To reveal pain and love, loss and fear. We particularly acknowledge the Ballarat RSL and the Ballarat Legacy Club, organisations that continue to do so much good work, often under recognised and under-celebrated. We acknowledge Sing Australia, the City of Ballarat and many others who have gone out of their way to help us.

We acknowledge our elders, the senior members of the Ballarat community who have offered us wisdom and advice. We especially acknowledge our Indigenous brothers and sisters, who were almost written out of the history of Gallipoli, yet they were there.

We acknowledge Joan Littlewood, one of the greatest theatre makers of all time. A woman who literally shook the foundations of everything around her. We take inspiration from her to be bold, be inquisitive and to remain committed to training.

We thank the Arts Academy for opening its doors and letting us share this conversation through so many means: in concerts, on the street, in art galleries, in conventions, in one-on-one conversations, in morning teas, in social media. Federation University has had no agenda and asked for no control. We particularly acknowledge two brave and remarkable artists: Kim Durban and Angela Campbell, who remain fierce in their commitment to excellence in training.

Finally, we acknowledge the graduating acting company, who have grown through this process. They are willing to open their eyes, sit in empathy and ask the unanswerable question: why?

Personally we dedicate this to our grandparents. Blue-collar workers, who signed up and fought. During this investigation our thoughts have turned to them.

Nathan Gilkes & Bryce Ives

APPENDIX 2 KEY ARTISTS

Direction, Musical Direction and Project Animatuning

Nathan Gilkes and Bryce Ives, Present Tense

Living Heritage Project Leader & Lovely War Advisor

Dr. Angela Campbell

Set and Costume Design Adam 'Gus' Powers

Lighting Design Rob Sowinski

Specialised Choreography Jacqui Essing & Brigittte Craig

Voice Director Margaret Mills

Production Managers Adam 'Gus' Powers & Kate Culbertson

Stage Manager Susan Mitchell

Front of House Manager Erica Morton

Lighting/Sound Operator Liam Drennan

Projection Assistant Brendan McKerlie

Design Assistant Rodney Hunt

Poster Design Maddie Durie

Foyer Art Work Jimmy Pasakos

Technical Crew Darren Garraway, James O'Donoghue

Assistant to the Directors Laura Burzacott, Present Tense

Cinematography WindSky Productions

APPENDIX 3 - PARTICIPATING STUDENT ARTISTS

Graduating Acting Company

Aden Beavis
Alisha Eddy
Anna Reardon
Arli Faruk
Brendan McCosker
Brendan McKerlie
Brigitte Craig
Casey Binks
David Gallagher
Dylan Keven Smith
Fenn Dawson
Gilbert Stansfield
Grace Pernar
Isabel Mulrooney
Jacqui Essing
Jamal Ali
James Holgate
Katy Nethercote
Kayla Hamill
Kyle McDonald
Laura Telford
Mark Simmonds
Nick Murphy
Nick Rijs
Oliver Cowen
Oliver Wilson
Olivia Cirillo
Rachel Powis
Sarah Wallis
Stephanie Van Rekum Ayres
Taylah Bordonaro

First Year Acting Company

Ryan Britton
Reba Brown
Jesse Calvert
Felix Castaner
Lilana Dalton
Bradley Devries
Elliot Gale
Nerrida Hannah

Claudia Harris
Tahlia Hathorn-Hooker
Phillip Herd
Carly Kenkins
Olivia Jordan
Jonathaon Lawrence
Liam Kean
Laura Majzoub
Madeline Mason
Alex McGuiagan
Timothy McMullin-Condo
Erin-Jayne Miller
Chloe Miller
Jacobs Mills
Anthony Miscamble
Natale Prodanovic
Katie O'Connor
Natalia Rozpara
Maddison Roberts
Bonnie Ryan-Rowe
James SaundryEmma Stewart
Kate Tomkins
Zerene Webster-Morley
Mitchell Wigg
Jackson Webb
Zara Wilson-Boyle

APPENDIX 4 - MEDIA RELEASE

Media Release

Arts Academy Students reflect on the centenary of First World War

The Graduating Actors Company of the Arts Academy, Federation University Australia mark the centenary of the First World War by investigating how collective memories linger and actively live on.

They will produce a series of innovative performances, events and discussions, collaborating with innovative theatre making artists Nathan Gilkes and Bryce Ives of The Present Tense Ensemble. One of a number of major public outcomes is a bold imagining of *Oh, what a Lovely War!*, with nightly performances in May.

“Our students, the same age as the original ANZAC women and men, are actively engaging in the people, the stories and the memories of Ballarat, whilst staging an important seminal theatre work by legendary theatre collective Joan Littlewood’s The Theatre Workshop,” says director Bryce Ives.

Events being presented by the graduating acting company include:

Shared morning tea gatherings with the Ballarat RSL, Sing Australia Choir and the Legacy Ladies, being held in the lead-up to ANZAC Day 2015. The coming together of the Arts Academy with senior members of the Ballarat community will create cross-generational dialogue and time to share memories and stories, along with the songs and stories being researched for the performances of *Oh, what a Lovely War!*

Wednesday April 1 at The George Hotel from 10am to 12.30pm with the Ballarat RSL

Monday April 13 at Legacy House, 5 Raglan Street from 10am to 11.30am with Legacy

Monday April 13 at the Mechanics Institute, from 7.30m to 10pm with Sing Australia

Open to members of the Ballarat RSL or Ballarat Legacy.

Gunfire Breakfast Entertainment. Following the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, the Graduating Actors Company will team up with the first year acting students, the City of Ballarat Municipal Brass Band and Sing Australia to present a special performance of old wartime songs, to be staged on the balcony of the George Hotel, activating the **Gunfire Breakfast**, and providing entertainment to Lydiard Street before the 2015 Anzac Day March. The music and performances will provide the perfect backdrop to the shared breakfast and preparations for the ANZAC Parade.

Saturday April 25, at The George Hotel from 8am to 10am

Free. Presented as part of the Gunfire Breakfast with the Ballarat RSL and The George Hotel.

Oh What a Lovely War! A season of Joan Littlewood's seminal and epic entertainment *Oh What a Lovely War!* is to be presented by the Graduating Actors Company and directed by Nathan Gilkes and Bryce Ives as part of the nationwide centenary commemoration of World War One. The plot is history: nothing less than the First World War complete with songs, a few battles and some jokes. Littlewood's popular music theatre piece portrays life on the front and at home through sourced letters and journals of fighting men and women, juxtaposed with official documentation from the British and French High Command. All is beautifully crafted and woven together with Music Hall and Vaudeville songs and routines of the era creating a highly accessible yet searching interrogation of human strength and frailty in times of war.

Monday May 4 to Saturday 9, playing nightly at 7.30pm, on Sunday May 10 at 5pm.

Helen Macpherson Smith Theatre, Arts Academy, Camp Street Campus

Tickets – www.federation.edu.au/eduarts-events

(Full details on following page.)

Songs of the Great War. Join the Graduating Actors and sing the songs of the Great War in this inspiring concert, which is part of the Art Gallery's program of events for Ballarat Heritage Weekend.

Saturday May 9 at 11am & 3pm, Sunday May 10 at 3pm, at the Art Gallery of Ballarat

Entry by donation –money raised goes to support the Gallery Collection

Remember and March. An invitation to community members and visitors to Ballarat on Heritage Weekend to **Remember and March**, by bringing along with them a photo, a diary, a letter, a memento or a story that connects through family or friends to the First World War and Ballarat's participation in the war effort. Come and re-trace the steps of the first ANZAC March from the Bridge Mall to the Town Hall. From 11am to 12pm, as part of Ballarat Heritage Weekend, Sturt Street will be closed to traffic, and activated by the energy of the actors of Federation University sharing letters, diary entries, songs and stories, as memories actively come to life and take over the street. At midday the town hall bells will summon audience and participants to the Ballarat Town Hall to hear the 1916 Mayor's speech from the original march.

Sunday May 10 from 11am to 12pm, Sturt Street Ballarat, from the Bridge Mall to the Ballarat Town Hall.

Part of Sturt Street will be closed from 10.45am to 12.15pm on Sunday May 10

Free. Part of Ballarat Heritage Weekend.

Public Discussion. Following the Remember and March, community members are invited to join a public **town hall discussion**, asking the question 'how do we remain connected to the First World War?' The audience will be asked to relate personal and shared connections we have around World War One and to consider why this continues to be important.

Sunday May 10 from 1pm to 2pm, Ballarat Mining Exchange.

Free. Part of Ballarat Heritage Weekend.

"This is a timely moment for the students of the Arts Academy to reflect upon themselves as artists in the world today, and to investigate and interrogate what the ANZAC centenary means to contemporary Australia," says Program Leader, Associate Professor Kim Durban.

"This will be the third year that students from the Academy have brought the streets of central Ballarat to life for Heritage Week," says project leader, Federation Uni lecturer, Dr Angela Campbell, "to be able to build this year's events around the Anzac Centenary provides us with the opportunity to connect the heritage story of Ballarat with world wide commemorations of WW1."

"We believe this project will inspire and invigorate local Ballarat residents, sparking discussion and the sharing of stories around the centenary milestone. It is cross-generational and cross-discipline, innovative and respectful," says director Bryce Ives.

Students from the Graduating Actors Company, along with directors Bryce Ives & Nathan Gilkes are available for interviews. Students are available to perform songs and monologues, along with photo opportunities.

This project is supported by the City of Ballarat through their Community Impact Grant Program, Federation University Australia, the Ballarat RSL, Ballarat Heritage Weekend and the Present Tense Ensemble.



Community meetings with the Ballarat RSL Day Club



Interviewing members of the Ballarat RSL Day Club, with Wind Sky Productions



The Gunfire Breakfast, ANZAC Day 2015 working in partnership with Sing Australia Choir, the Federation University Pipe Band and Ballarat Brass Band.





UNESCO World Heritage Summit, Pop Up Concert Performance at the Art Gallery of Ballarat

The 2015 Graduating Actors Company Arts Academy, Federation University Australia
present:

JOAN LITTLEWOOD'S Musical Entertainment

OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR!

By Theatre Workshop, Charles Cilton, Gerry Raffles
And
Members of the Original Cast
Title Suggested by Ted Allan

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORiGiN™ THEATRICAL
ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH LTD

Directed by Nathan Gilkes and Bryce Ives, the Present Tense Ensemble

Monday 4th May 2015 @ 7:30pm
Tuesday 5th May 2015 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday 6th May 2015 @ 7:30pm
Thursday 7th May 2015 @ 7:30pm
Friday 8th May 2015 @ 7:30pm
Saturday 9th May 2015 @ 7:30pm
Sunday 10th May 2015 @ 5:00pm

Helen Macpherson Smith Theatre
Arts Academy, Camp Street Campus

Tickets – www.federation.edu.au/eduarts-events





Pop-up concerts at the Ballarat Art Gallery, for Ballarat Heritage Weekend 2015
