



LEIGH BOSWELL | BIOGRAPHY

Leigh Boswell grew up in Cairns and went to Mother of Good Council Primary School and St Mary's Catholic College. She completed a Bachelor of Arts (Drama) and a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) at the Queensland University of Technology where she graduated with Honours. During this time she was also an Executive Board Member at Backbone Youth Arts in Brisbane and a workshop co-ordinator for the Two High Young Women and the Arts

Festival. She also completed secondments at the *Stage X Festival* and at the *Out of the Box Festival* as an assistant to the Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Leigh also worked with QUT *Vena Cava Theatre Company* where she managed their annual workshop program and stage-managed a number of their main-house productions. While at university Leigh was awarded with funds from the QUT Vice Chancellor to initiate, '*Chalk: A festival celebrating arts educators*' where she also wrote, directed and produced 'Generation Stop!'

Leigh has also worked with the Brisbane City Council on a number of youth initiatives including *One Book One Brisbane* and the *Visible Ink Festival*, where she focused on marketing, promotion and sponsorship. She has also worked for *debase Productions* in Brisbane as a theatre director and also a project officer for their season of one-act plays, *Sheila's Shorts Festival*. Leigh has also worked at the *Queensland Performing Arts Centre* in writing teacher notes for main-house performances and for *Clarion South* as an Arts Administrator.

Upon completing her double degree in arts and education Leigh worked at Centenary State High School and The Ritz Performing Arts Centre in Brisbane before travelling to London where she lived for two years. Having worked in both the primary and secondary fields in London, Leigh also completed professional development with the National Association of Youth Theatre, Dorothy Heathcote and the Royal Shakespeare Company in directing.

Upon returning to Cairns she worked at St Augustine's College, a Marist boarding school for boys, teaching both Drama and English. During this time Leigh co-founded *Saints Youth Theatre* (SYT), an after school drama club, which participated in a number community events including Festival Cairns and National Youth Week.

Leigh has also worked for Mission Australia and Choice Australia Management in developing resource notes for their community project, *Playing Mother Scripts* by Avril Duck. She was also a Senior Drama panelist in the Cairns district for the Qld Studies Authority. Leigh also worked as a tutor and lecturer at James Cook University, School of Education and as a guest lecturer in the School of Creative Arts. Leigh was also a board member for JUTE Theatre 2006 – 2009 and a Freelance Youth and Education Officer for JUTE Theatre.

Her directing credits include, *Santa and the Seven Christmas Fairies*, *The Railway Children*, *Hamlet for kids*, *Twelfth Night for kids*, *South Pacific*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Classic Tale of Hugh Dunitz*, *Porco Dio*, *Dame Smack-a-lot and the land of Easter Treats*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Oliver Twist*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Opening a Fuzzwollops Frame of Mind*. Most recently Leigh has directed, *Citizen Jane* by Michael Fitcher for JUTE Theatre and *Something Like Wings* by Victoria Carless for The Young Company.

Currently, Leigh is the Artistic Director of The Young Company, theatre for children and young people, which she established at the start of 2009.