

Industry Forum: Young People and the Arts
Wed 30 May 2018 - ATYP

Firecracker Update: Alexandra Mangano
Trajectory Ensemble, Tantrum Youth Arts (Newcastle)

Good afternoon, I am Alexandra Rose a singer song-writer, actor and performer from Newcastle and I have been asked to come and talk to you all about Tantrum Youth Arts and the inspiring productions that they create. Their productions are inspiring because the stories they tell are from the voices of the creative young minds of Newcastle and the Central Coast. For the past 6 years I have been performing and helping to create Tantrum's Major Productions, including their yearly site-specific shows from Diving of the Edge of the World 2014 to The One earlier this year. I have also been fortunate to collaborate in their stage shows like The Chosen 2014 and Home in 2017 both of which had a season in Sydney.

I always like to say that Tantrum is addictive, you have one taste of it and you can't help but want to go back for more. The nature in which the directors engage us, into creating the productions, it isn't just a Tantrum production it is our production. With this company I have learnt how to work with others, communicate within a group of creatives, assist in making beautiful heart-warming and heart break pieces of theatre and also how to allow my dream to soar.

As a singer song-writer I LOVE original work, being a part of the creative process and completely falling into the crazy minds of fellow creatives. From character building, to script writing, to set design and costumes, directing, acting, singing and dancing. I have truly been able to do every single one of these with Tantrum and as I have grown over the past years I have been able to grow with Tantrum which brings me to Trajectory.

The Trajectory Ensemble Program at Tantrum is for young adults in the first 5 years of their creative careers. It is a new program that allows Tantrum to bring in professional artists from around Australia to work alongside the young creatives. Professional Artists such as Janie Gibson, who ran last year's program and Lucas Sibbard and Neridah Waters who I am very excited to work with this year to activate Newcastle's Museum which I and the other young creatives have already started to shape the course of the show with two rehearsals down and many more to go.

Last year myself and 9 other young creatives came together for one life changing adventure. It might sound dramatic saying that and being an actor we are pretty dramatic BUT with our topic of HOME and the beautiful guidance of Janie Gibson I really did feel like a different person both in and out of my career when we finished. Home was about US, making us dig deep into our past, present and future, working with one another and completely trusting a group of strangers within the 3 hour audition. Each month Janie would set us individual tasks, drawing on our own personal skills and interests. We would go away and use sources which interested us to create pieces of art, poetry, music and whatever we wanted really to described what our home was. 5 months later we had Home, a 90 minute production that told 10 very different stories about what Home means. What was about OUR home, I was able to perform one of my songs 'Clouds' in the show, and share MY story

about how I consider my home as my body. Each of us were allowed to use our voice and our words to tell our personal stories.

All of Tantrum shows do this, in the auditions they are very open, allowing the young people to come in and show their skills. Whether it be singing, dancing, acting or writing, Tantrum helps to create a part for you, so each young creative can have their multitude of skills highlighted in each show. I have been able to have my skills in music and acting highlighted and explored through Tantrums shows. They allow me to sing and play in each show, which is so amazing to be able to do the two main things I love on one stage at the same time

I am now a drama tutor in Newcastle and have been able to adopt so many skills from Tantrum's lessons in their productions into my own classes and into my own acting career. Tantrum has opened so many doors for me in my career and allowed me to meet amazing creatives in Newcastle's music and acting scene. I have formed friendships and partnerships which have helped me grow in the creative world that I live in, even having Lucy ask me to come here and meet all of you. Thank you to Theatre Network Australia, from myself and from the beautiful team of Tantrum for having us here today! It is so exciting to hear everything that is happening in the creative community and also to share all that we are doing in Newcastle! So Thank you!