

# MASTER IT

## Monthly Drop - In Voice Class



## YOUR VOICE

### TUTORS: Dianna Nixon & Beth Atkins

*The best way to keep up your voice training and development work.*

*Our instrument has a profound visceral and empathetic impact on our audience. We listen to each other as much with our larynx as we do with our ears. As a professional artist we should know WHY something works, and how to reproduce it safely and effectively throughout a season of performances, or throughout the life of a character on a film or TV shoot. And it always feels good to develop greater mastery of our craft.*

Work with two of our region's leading voice coaches and expect an holistic process covering many facets of voice work (including physiology, function, language, musicality, artistry).

#### **DIANNA NIXON**

A graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, Dianna Nixon has built a multidisciplinary practice, over 30 years of professional life, integrating her skills as pianist, singer, actor, director and animateur. Of ongoing fascination is the relationship between body and voice in performance. Awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2012 for her work with *The Developing Voice*, Dianna runs a home studio/lab exploring this vast subject

Dianna has worked on projects for entities large and small – festivals, opera and theatre companies, in community cultural development as well as in concert, cabaret, TV, film, corporate work and touring with music theatre shows. For Wild Voices Music Theatre, Dianna devised, directed and performed in *The Girls* (The Street, The Famous Spiegeltent), and directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (children's musical) and *Under Milk Wood* (The Street). In 2014, Dianna was language dramaturg on *The Homefront*, and made 3 short musical films, including *a Song*, premiering at the 2015 Canberra Short Film Festival, winning Best Score for her composition and coordination of the score. In 2015, Dianna was language and accent coach on the premiere of *The Chain Bridge* at The Street Theatre and continues to work as freelance accompanist, actor and coach.

#### **BETH ATKINS**

Beth Atkins is Australasia's only Estill Voice Training™ certified Speech Pathologist, becoming a Certified Master Teacher in 2012. Since completion of a Masters of Speech-Language Pathology (Honours) at the University of Sydney in 2007, she has worked as a voice therapist in the public and private sector. With a particular interest in voice education and training for performers and professional voice users, she runs vocal health workshops for groups such as school teachers and yoga instructors. She has also delivered voice education workshops for the transgender community. She has presented at The International Voice

Symposium in Philadelphia and The Australasian Voice Summit. Beth has lectured in performers' voice and Speech Pathology in tertiary institutions across Australia.

Beth's passion for voice stems from her lifelong singing performing experience. She completed a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Singing Performance) at the University of Wollongong and has been involved in cabaret, recording projects, musicals and concerts. Most recently, she appeared in the cabaret "The Girls" in the Famous Spiegeltent and is appearing again in March of this year. Beth currently runs a private voice training studio and voice therapy practice in Mittagong, NSW.

## **DATES FOR 2016**

### **PROGRAM AND THEMES:**

**March 30:**                    **The Supporting Instrument** (Dianna Nixon) – explore how to set the body up, and maintain it, for optimal efficiency for durable and expressive vocal performance

**April 27:**                    **The Vocal Tract** (Beth Atkins) – all you ever needed or wanted to know about your larynx, pharynx, articulators, resonators and more

**May 25 :**                    **Voice Care** (Dianna Nixon) – how to look after your voice in daily life and during performance, including warmups/cooldowns

**June 22:**                    **The Song from Page to Stage** (Dianna Nixon) – explore the magical process of interpretation in music theatre and opera

**July 27:**                    **Phonetics and Diction, Articulation and Vowel Placement 1** (Dianna Nixon) – the wonderful world of IPA, received pronunciation, also exploring accents

**August 24:**                    **Improving My Sound** (Beth Atkins) – how to increase range, timbre, strength, dynamics, strength and resilience in your vocal practice

**September 28:**                    **Phonetics and Diction, Articulation and Vowel Placement 2** (Dianna Nixon) – applying the above to monologues and songs

**October 26:**                    **Text masterclass** (Dianna Nixon & Beth Atkins) – conducted in a masterclass format to integrate the concepts explored in previous sessions

**November 23:**                    **Song masterclass** (Dianna Nixon & Beth Atkins) – conducted in a masterclass format to integrate the concepts explored in previous sessions, pianist available

**December 14:**                    **Where to next?** (Dianna Nixon) – exploring ideas for integrating a focus on voice into each participant's current practice. What more could they be doing? How will they apply what they've discovered? Where can they go for more info? More coaching? More repertoire? What are the next steps for each artist?