



## **Community Engagement and Audience Development Strategy Ideas for Drip Drop Play**

Ad Lib Collective Director Thea Rossen has been building community workshops for adults and children as part of regional and metro touring for over 10 years. This includes tours with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Musica Viva Australia, Melbourne Recital Centre and more (all of whom have included resource development). She has delivered workshop series for Castlemaine State Festival VIC, One Arm Point Remote Aboriginal Community WA, Esperance Art Centre, Peninsular Music Festival VIC and the Four Winds in Bermagui NSW among others.

Thea's breadth of experience as a seasoned teaching artist dovetails in with the teaching qualifications of Drip Drop Play co-creator and Ad Lib co-founder Jesse Deane, who is a qualified classroom music teacher and woodwind specialist working with the Instrumental School of Music in WA.

Together, they are not only highly skilled musicians, but exceptional workshop facilitators and will be able to work closely with each programming team and associated community organisations to build a bespoke schedule of events that will include a wide range of community members in the Drip Drop Play experience at each venue.

What follows are a number of options for community engagement and audience development that may be relevant, though this can all be discussed with individual programmers to tailor the experience. Please be in touch to discuss additions foyer activation options available.

Please note that Drip Drop Play, in its current format, is ideal for school holiday presentation, due to capacity limits and presenter availability. We are however, open to discussions about school engagement for the show if the class sizes were small enough and it was on a week either side of the school holidays. If this is the case, we can offer resources packages for schools upon request. See below for some brief engagement options for schools which can be expanded upon request.

### **Community Engagement Ideas**

#### **1. Meet the artists / Q&A (1 - 2 hours)**

Thea Rossen and Jesse Deane have been travelling the world performing, building workshops and connecting with communities for over 10 years, they have lots of stories to share and are always interested in answering people's questions about their careers, this show and how it was built. Drip Drop Play is deeply connected to a number of projects that the Ad Lib Collective have built surrounding climate change and environmental sustainability. This one came together through a residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

The format of this session could either a lecture recital with videos and a discussion panel, or simply an informal Q&A session.

#### **2. Graphic score workshop (half - whole day options) - Upper Primary / Young Adults**

Small groups of 10 - 15 year olds will work closely with the artists to develop and perform their own graphic scores using sounds and ideas from the Drip Drop show.

#### **3. Mallet making workshops (1 - 2 hours)**

In the show, the artists use mallets they have made themselves out of bouncy balls, chopsticks and knitting needles. We can offer a workshop on how to make these at home so that the water music making can continue after the show has finished. This session can be offered in conjunction with the *Sound sourcing* and *Improvisation* workshops below.

#### 4. **Improvisation and composition workshops (half - whole day options available) - Adults and / or Kids**

Anyone can create and perform music if given the right structures to consider and the proper encouragement. These welcoming and inclusive workshops can be pitched at adults, children or a mixture of both and can feature instruments, water or simply singing and body percussion. No prior training is required. Participants will usually begin all together for an introductory warm up, and then be given a musical task to complete in groups with facilitator support. The session will end with a short performance of the challenge set at the start and a cup of tea to discuss the process afterwards.

#### 5. **Sound sourcing workshops in local OpShop and hardware stores**

In the show the we use lots of items and objects that you may find in an OpShop, recycle station or hardware store. In this workshop we spend the morning taking participants on a tour of these local stores to open their eyes and ears to the sonic potential of objects, including pasta strainers, knitting needles, plastic cups and more! This half day workshop could dove tail into the above *Improvisation and Composition* workshops for either adults or children.

#### 6. **Evening water performance experience, featuring adult showing of Drip Drop Play.**

Thea Rossen is an award winning classically trained percussionist and Jesse Deane is an outstanding saxophonist, together they have performed around the world. There is an option to offer a short performance recital for the community of solo and duo works featuring water percussion and saxophone in the evening or afternoon. This could be combined with an adult version of Drip Drop Play in the form of an installation and the *Artist Talk/Q&A* mentioned above for a full evening experience.

If you have an idea of a different version of these workshops that will suit your community, or you'd like to discuss anything further please contact Thea Rossen, details below.  
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Above, Thea Rossen and Jesse Deane perform and speak at a community event for Plastic Free July UWA.  
Below, Drip Drop Play.



## **Schools Engagement ideas**

### **Professional Development for Teachers**

Thea Rossen is a teaching artist with more than 15 years experience as a percussion teacher and presenter in schools. She has also run accredited professional development for teachers for Musica Viva for more than 5 years across Australia. Her sessions vary in topic and subject matter but generally focus on inspiring teachers to bring music into their classrooms in accessible and exciting ways that don't require expensive gear or years of musical training. Jesse Deane is a qualified teacher with 10+ years experience as a classroom music teacher and peripatetic woodwind specialist. He directs bands and runs ensembles regularly and has a wealth of information to share with both mainstream classroom teachers as well as music specialists for fun ways to bring music into a classroom and exciting ways to engage music students in learning, performing and creating.

We can offer teacher PDs in the evenings to enrich the experience of the students who will attend the Drip Drop Play show. These sessions will inspire teachers to use water and found sounds to create music in their classrooms and will feature lots of cross curriculum links including to science, sustainability, maths and literacy through story telling. They can be differentiated for either primary or high school (though Drip Drop Play is mainly pitched at 3 - 12 year olds).

### **Longer residency option for schools to engage with Drip Drop Play**

Thea Rossen and the Ad Lib Collective team can offer a longer residency option which will engage local schools and or community members. The general format involves a series of workshops with school students and / or community members over days or weeks that culminates in a performance presentation featuring water and recycled or found objects as instruments. The participants form an orchestra of sorts and can perform quite complex compositions that they have designed themselves for a community audience. The workshops will feature a combination of the elements below. [See this clip](#) for an example of a project we presented for at-risk youth in regional Victoria.

- Instrument sourcing and/or building
- Composition workshops in small groups
- Performance examples from facilitators
- Integration of musical elements including ostinato/call and response/improvisation
- Discussion of graphic notation within the context of improvisation

Students will build skills in the following areas

- Following a conductor
- Working in a team
- Creativity
- Composition
- Rhythm
- Performance skills
- As well as cross curriculum links including; the science of how sound is made, sustainability issues around recycling and water conservation, literacy in the form of story telling and more.

This can all be tailored to the needs of each school community, so get in touch with Thea Rossen if you would like to discuss the options in more detail.

### **Links to previous school based projects**

- Benalla Junk Orchestra - <https://vimeo.com/237834697>
- Touring show with Music Viva, Water Water Everywhere (300+ performances to 50,000+ school students) <https://vimeo.com/821908057>
- WASO Millie's Marvellous Adventures with the Orchestra - Written and performed by Thea Rossen - <https://vimeo.com/768075118>