

This summary is part of research on performance training in Australia undertaken by Professor Peta Tait and Dr Melanie Beddie in 2017 funded by La Trobe University. It researched the influences on, and the training of, prominent teachers working within key training institutions circa 1980 to 2010.

## Rob Meldrum

Rob Meldrum is an actor, maker of theatre and a teacher of acting and of voice. He is particularly important for his teaching at Rusden State College, Melbourne and The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) where he was a lecturer for eight years.

The key training for Meldrum was a series of workshops given by Rowena Balos in 1975 at The Melbourne Theatre Company. Previously, Meldrum had been working with various members of the Australian Performing Group (APG) and the work he encountered with Balos led him to form a theatre company called Stasis, with Jenny Kemp and Sue Ingleton. Stasis began an investigation that Meldrum continues to develop through his various modes of practice. Exploring the role of impulse in the actor's work Stasis created productions and also taught workshops in schools, and the important artistic collaboration with Kemp and Ingleton on a production of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* in 1976 was a strong influence on other Melbourne theatre makers such as Lindy Davies.

Meldrum continued to explore Impulse Work through the early 1980s in teaching which assisted in the dissemination of interpretations of Impulse Work to many other practitioners. In 1988 Meldrum taught at VCA alongside Robert Draffin and Lindy Davies and he continues to teach in private studios and to work as a professional actor. After further training with Rowena Balos, Meldrum's practice now also includes voice teaching.

Meldrum developed a strong working relationship with Australian director Rex Cramphorn throughout the 1980s. From 2001 to 2003 Meldrum was engaged in an intense period of acting with the Bell Shakespeare Company. These experiences of working on classic text as an actor alongside his interest in the actor's use of breath and impulse have contributed to Meldrum's expertise as a voice and acting teacher with a focus on classic text.

