

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.

## Lisle Jones

Lisle Jones worked as an actor in both Australia and the UK before taking up the role of Head of Acting in 1980 at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) where he subsequently became Head of the Theatre Department. He retired in 1995. He continues to teach, including at the National Theatre School in Melbourne.

Jones' early career in Australia included joining Stratford's Shakespeare Memorial Theatre Company as an actor on their first Australian Tour. After an extended period of work with Gertrude Johnston at the National Theatre, Melbourne, he went to Britain in 1958 where he worked widely as a professional actor and then became head of the drama department at London's Arts Educational School for a number of years. He was invited by Nigel Rideout to return to Australia to join the recently formed WAAPA; Rideout, formerly the head of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), was the first Head of Acting at WAAPA in 1981.

Jones is adamant that effective actor training requires an integrated curriculum and not merely a series of loosely related classes and this belief assisted him to implement a strong curriculum at WAAPA. He finds that Robert Benedetti's *The Actor at Work* provides an approach to training that is sequenced and thorough with sufficient emphasis on how to create character. He also values the improvisational work of Viola Spolin.

