

Australia's Performing Arts

# WE ALL PLAY A PART

Wednesday 9th July, 2008

## CASE STUDIES



### Company B Working with Disadvantaged Young People

The performing arts industry plays an important role in the development of young people from disadvantaged communities. Key College is a High School for young people run by Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets organisation. The college caters for young people deemed at risk. Since the end of 2005 Company B has been working with Key College to provide meaningful theatrical experiences to their students. This is Patrick's story;

*At the tender age of 16, aspiring actor Patrick Spencer has seen numerous plays and met some of his favourite film and theatre stars. Patrick has had more theatre industry experience in a year than most people have in a lifetime.*

*Supported by Company B Education Partner Freebills and the Teen Spirit Charitable Foundation (through Perpetual Trustees), Company B has been working with Key College, where Patrick is a student, to create a program that provides disadvantaged young people with access to a professional theatre company.*

*The school offers learning and support with an aim to foster the students' interest in education by providing positive experiences to assist their move back into regular schools, TAFE or work.*

*For Patrick, the Company B workshops have helped him understand more about the theatre as an art form. "At first I thought 'theatre' meant the movies, but when I got to Company B I realised that the theatre is real life, in real time. I hadn't met an actor before coming into the program and now I've met lots including Geoffrey Rush, Richard Roxburgh and Deb Mailman! When Geoffrey Rush came to one of the workshops, he walked around doing his warm up exercises saying 'Blur, blur, blur' over and over – it was hilarious."*

*Patrick says the program has helped him gain a deeper knowledge of the industry and has also helped him with his communication skills, particularly when it comes to exams. With his hopes set on finishing year 12 and gaining a place in NIDA, Patrick is looking to the future with hope and expectation.*

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