

# DR CORINNA DI NIRO

LECTURER | CREATIVE RESEARCHER | TEDx SPEAKER | PERFORMER

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**Creative Academic with strong industry networks and capabilities in the creative industries who combines public speaking with performing as a multiskilled international performance artist**

## KEY SKILL SET

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- Delivering high standards of teaching and learning in diverse higher education settings, conducting quality academic research and building effective stakeholder relationships across industry, academia and the community
- First-class communicator with solid interpersonal skills to establish rapport and build relationships across social, professional, language and cultural boundaries
- Ambition, drive and determination to create innovative, thought-provoking work that challenges the status quo, holds a PhD in Commedia dell'Arte (unique in Australia), broad background in acting – translating to outstanding skills in engaging people and audiences.

## PROFESSIONAL ASSETS

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- Impressive career that includes Senior Performance Artist for Disney, Humphrey B Bear and Artist Liaison for Cirque du Soleil (on tour) underpinned by a PhD in practice-led performing arts
- Experienced lecturer for UniSA and renowned industry organisations, including the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) and the Australian Company of Performing Arts
- Owner/operator of a successful international theatre business, Commedia con Corinna, training actors and drama teachers across Australia, New Zealand, Lima, New York, Stockholm, London, Paris and Padua
- TEDx Speaker for creative research 'The Virtual Actor', awarded a UniSA grant that led to research presentation at two conferences in Granada, Spain and Melbourne, Victoria, <https://bit.ly/2DRAK9o>
- Performed the role of national icon Humphrey B Bear for seven years, developing a wide network of cultural, artistic, business and industry contacts
- Highly regarded by university students with frequent requests to be an Honours and PhD supervisor
- Outstanding technological competence (Learn Online, Moodle, Adobe Premier, Photoshop, Insta360Pro, Microsoft, Virtual classrooms, Kahoot) and creative director for 'The Virtual Actor' App.

## CAREER SUMMARY

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|---|----------------|
| • Guest Lecturer   National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA)                               | 2019 – current |
| • Senior Acting Trainer   Australian Company of Performing Arts                             | 2019 – current |
| • Sessional Academic   University of South Australia  | 2012 – current |
| • Humphrey B Bear   Banksia Productions + Imagination                                       | 2007 – 2015    |
| • Assistant Principal   Head Drama Teacher   Helen O'Grady Drama Academy                    | 2007 – 2012    |
| • Entertainer   Disney Cruise Lines   | 2006 – 2007    |
| • Artistic Director/Founder/Owner   Commedia con Corinna                                    | 2005 – current |
| • Workshop Facilitator   Tutti Ensemble, No Strings Attached, D'Faces Aboriginal Youth Arts | 2003 – 2006    |
| • Artist Liaison   Cirque du Soleil (on tour)   | 2002 – 2003    |

## QUALIFICATIONS

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| PhD   Practice-led Research in Performing Arts   University of South Australia | 2016 |
| Bachelor of Arts Honours (Media Arts/Drama)   University of South Australia    | 2011 |
| Bachelor of Arts (Media Arts/Drama)   University of South Australia            | 2010 |

## UNISA COURSE EXPERTISE

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- COMM3063 Internship or Project
- PERF3006 Industry and Practice
- PER1011 Stage Performance
- PERF1001 Effective Communication
- LANG2044 English for Business Studies
- COMM1065 Professional and Technical Comms
- COMM1072 UO Communication and Media
- COMM1071 + UO Introduction to Social Media
- BUSS1063 Introduction to Human Behaviour
- LANG1002 Critical Thinking: Media/Academia
- EDUC1075 University Studies
- COMM1068 Comms for Academic Purpose

## PERSONAL SKILLS

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- Flexible teaching / learning techniques
- Project leadership and design
- Conducting innovative creative research
- Mentoring young people
- Creative industry grant writing/applications
- Developing course materials
- Writing for academic publication
- Building and maintain industry partnerships

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Sessional Academic | University of South Australia

2012 – current

- Lecturing and tutoring for diverse courses including UniSA college (2016 – 2017), School of Creative Industries (2012 – current), and UniSA Online (2019)
- Conducting student assessments and contributes to curriculum design for Introduction to Social Media (writer of new content for Social Media and Politics)
  - Designing reading list and Learnonline site for external students for COMM3063 Internship/project
  - Working closely with Placement Officer to link students with own industry connections
  - Presenting research findings/creative work at several conferences and for numerous publications.

### Artistic Director/Founder/Owner | Commedia con Corinna

2005 – current

- Performing and conducting training for actors and drama teachers across Australia, New Zealand, Lima, New York, Stockholm, London, Paris and Padua, and teaches primary, secondary and tertiary students in Commedia dell'Arte, Comic Acting, Slapstick, Mask, Devising Theatre, Interactive Theatre and Site-Specific Theatre
- Designing curriculum for drama teachers, develops and facilitates professional development for drama and Italian language teachers nationally and internationally
- Performing commedia dell'arte shows at festivals (eg Adelaide Fringe festival), special events (Art Gallery of SA, Carnevale) and Keynote Speaker for the International Commedia dell'Arte conference/flagship event, Sydney.

### Guest Lecturer | National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA)

2019 – current

- Invited to lecture Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts) students on 'Characters and Conventions of the Commedia dell'Arte: with reference to a 21st century context', and develops essential readings for course.

### Senior Acting Trainer | Australian Company of Performing Arts

2019 – current

- Increasing student enrolments and retention by pitching and implementing a Senior Acting Program
- Assisting dance teachers to improve acting skills for students
- Developing curriculum and teaching Senior Acting classes for students aged 14+
- Created and directed stage fight scene for West Side Story with musical theatre and senior dance students
- Participated in various promotional videos as Senior Acting Trainer for company.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Vice-President (volunteer)   Governing Committee of Brompton Children's Centre	2019 – current
Associate Member   Creative People Products and Places (CP3), UniSA	2019 – current
Speaker/Member   Women in AR/VR, NSW	2018 – current
Speaker/Co-facilitator   Adelaide Virtual Reality, SA	2018 – current
Member   Australasian Association of Writing Programs	2018 – current
Member   Australasian Association for Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies	2018 – current
Member   National Association of Enabling Educators of Australia	2016 – current
Member   SAT Cultural Association, Italy	2005 – current

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Senior First Aid and Mandated Notifier Training   Anglicare SA	2019
Ways of Teaching and Engaging Aboriginal Students   Creative Spirits	2019
Building a Team Culture of Excellence	2017
Aboriginal Cultural Awareness   UniSA	2013
Site-Specific Theatre / Interactive Arts   Sudden Impact, Adelaide	2010
Commedia dell'Arte and Comic Acting   Antonio Fava, Italy	2004

## 2019 PAPER PRESENTATIONS

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Di Niro, C 2019, 'Writing the invisible script: a method for developing a canovaccio for a Commedia dell'Arte performance', presentation at Australasian Association of Writing Programs (AAWP) Annual Conference, University of Technology Sydney, 25-27 November.

Di Niro, C, Muslera, P & Walker, A 2019, 'Through Cracks: three narratives of para-academic pathways in post-GFC Australia', presentation at Australasian Association of Writing Programs (AAWP) Annual Conference, University of Technology Sydney, 25-27 November.

Di Niro, C 2019, 'Virtual Reality Showcase', demonstration of The Virtual Actor in The Wizard of Oz App and presentation of TEDx talk 'VR + Theatre = YOU as Hamlet' at Teaching and Learning Symposium, University of South Australia, City West, 8 November.

Di Niro, C & Walker, A 2019, 'Seeing through the bars; speaking our way out: How creative work helps us confront in/visible violences in tertiary education and beyond' at the International Interdisciplinary Conference *INDELIBLE (Eng)/INDELIBILE (It)-Representations in the arts of (in)visible violence against women and their resistance*, at Flinders University, Adelaide, 23-25 October.

Di Niro, C 2019, 'Bone Cage' (director of theatre performance) at the International Interdisciplinary Conference *INDELIBLE (Eng)/INDELIBILE (It)-Representations in the arts of (in)visible violence against women and their resistance*, at Flinders University, Adelaide, 23-25 October. Bone Cage Review: <https://bit.ly/36bb57T>

Di Niro, C 2019, 'The Virtual Actor: enhancing the audience experience through virtual reality' at the *PopCAANZ* conference, at RMIT University, Melbourne, 3-5 July.

Di Niro, C 2019, 'From Pantalone to Mr Burns: Commedia dell'Arte's method for transcending language and cultural barriers', at the *PopCAANZ* conference, at RMIT University, Melbourne, 3-5 July.

Di Niro, C 2019, 'The Virtual Actor: enhancing the audience experience through virtual reality', at the Seventeenth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, Granada, Spain, July 3 to 5, <https://bit.ly/2s6rnQw>

Di Niro C & Walker A 2019 'You're doctor what?' Online conference presentation podcast, at *Making shiFt Happen: female academics creating personal and professional alchemy in the academy* Virtual Conference, University of Southern Queensland: Queensland, 5 – 6 Feb 2019.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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Walker, A & Di Niro, C 2019, 'Creative Duoethnography: a methodology for arts research', *TEXT Special Issue no. 57: Peripheral Visions*.

Di Niro C & Walker A 2018 'You're doctor what? Challenges for creative arts research in a culture of binaries' in AL Black and S Garvis (eds) *Lived experiences of women in academia: metaphors, manifestos and memoir* London: Routledge, 32-44.

Di Niro C, Muslera, P 2015, 'Spitballing, slapstick, lazzi and improvisation: The benefits of practising Commedia dell'Arte in secondary schools', *European Journal of Humour Research*, vol. 3, no. 4, pp. 75-91.

Di Niro C 2013, 'A reason to read: linking literacy and the arts', (book review), *Teaching Artists Journal* vol. 11, no. 4, pp. 261-263.

## SCHOLARLY WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Di Niro, C, *Performing Commedia dell'Arte in a contemporary Australian context: a guide for students and teachers*, Currency Press.

Di Niro, C, *Commedia dell'Arte for the 21<sup>st</sup> century: practice and performance in the Asia-Pacific*, Routledge.

Di Niro, C & Dunkin, A (eds), 'The Life and Works of Dr Noble' Special Journal Edition, *Writing From Below*, (due 2021).

Di Niro, C and Walker, A, 'Resisting violence through the arts: theatre and poetry as spaces for speaking out and seeking change', Policy Press (due 2020).