

Belonging Matters' Podcast

Transcript

Episode 11: Writing My Own Script: It's No Drama

Hanna Beard

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This episode is introduced by Hannah and narrated by Hannah and her mother, Jackie.

Welcome to Belonging Matters podcast series. Now available on Apple podcasts, Google podcasts, Spotify, and www.belongingmatters.org. You can email Belonging Matters on info@belongingmatters.org. Episode Eleven, "Writing My Own Script: It's No Drama." Introduced by Hannah and narrated by Hannah's mother, Jackie.

I want to tell you about my really cool drama group called Prospect Theatre for Young People. I have been going to classes since I was 5 years old and have been in many productions. I love being on stage and being part of the

theatre, creating stories and having fun. My Mum Jackie helped me write this story.

When I was younger I was always putting on shows and pretending to be characters, and I would do them by myself or with my brother and sister. A friend of my Mum's, Margaret is a drama teacher and she spoke to some parents about starting a drama group in 2010. She asked if we would be interested in joining. I was so excited when I met the other kids. We have pretty much stayed with the same group of kids over the years.

My parents always supported me with my dreams and letting me do the activities I wanted to do. They never really made a big deal about it. I make sure I have my drink bottle and practice my scripts when we are rehearsing for a production. I have to remember my cues and talk with a loud clear voice.

In 2017, I also auditioned and got a part in a documentary called a Field Guide to being a 12-year-old-girl. It starred twelve 12-year old girls. It was directed by Tilda Cobham-Hervey and it was about what it is like to be a 12 year old girl! It was awesome making the film but really hard work. They make you do it again and again! The film was shown as part of the Adelaide Film Festival and I arrived to the world premiere in a pink limousine. My school friend Noah and my family came in the limo with me. It was so much fun!

The other kids encourage me and work with me. They prompt me if I forget my lines. Sometimes I feel worried that my drawings aren't very good or people won't understand my thoughts and so I feel shy in case someone laughs at me, but this never happens and I always get my chance to share my ideas.

The other children are very creative. We all have a say and they have some really great ideas. They are really smart and honest. It's an honour for me to be a part of the group.

Through Prospect Theatre for Young People I have been in a number of productions. I always get a part and a number of lines. Margaret knows not to overload me with too many lines so that I can nail them when the time comes.

In 2012, we did a production at our local town hall about 3 stories that were based on the imaginations of all of us in the group. I was in the play called the Magic Crystal and I got to wear a crown. I look so young in the photo! In 2014, in a production called Green Stories, our drama groups created stories based on local environmental themes. These themes included walking and riding bikes instead of driving cars to help keep the air clean, reducing waste to landfill by reusing and recycling, using less water and looking after local native animals. The play I was in was called Where Have All the Native Animals Gone?

2017 was a very big year when I got to be in another production called 'Hopscotch, Chooks and Slingshots.' This play was based on stories of childhood from local residents who grew up in Prospect in the 1930's and 40's. We had to wear dresses from that era. My younger sister Charlotte was also in the play. My whole family came to watch and I had the really important role of being the milk bottle carrier in one scene. I was very careful not to drop the tray!

I love being front and centre and the same as the other children. They don't try and give me something really easy to do but always challenge me and believe in my skills. I have stayed with my peer group and done the same things as them. When we do the 'show and tell' in front of the parents, I always

get a go and everyone trusts me to do my part well. This has given me lots of confidence.

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I made lots of friends when making the film and Audrey, Carrot and Lola invited me to their 13th birthday parties. Carrot has a great line in the film where she tells the narrator 'Stop narrating me'. That is my favourite line. I don't want anyone narrating me either!

I was so excited to meet Tilda. She came to my house and had a cup of tea. She was so nice to work with and she taught me a lot. This is what Tilda said about me and the film:

Hannah was an absolute joy to collaborate with. Her enthusiasm and joyful spirit shone on screen and off. Watching how the group of twelve, 12 year old girls with different backgrounds and abilities bonded together to support each other through this project was inspiring. Hannah is very creative and beautifully honest and her unique point of view was integral to the creative process and the final outcome of the film.

I also got to make a short film about Prospect Theatre for Young People which is part of this Belonging Matters project 19 Stories of Social Inclusion. You can watch it at

www.19stories.org. I love watching that film, especially the bit about the sharks which makes me laugh! My all time highlight was playing the part of a ladybug when I was really little.

When I grow up I would like to be an actress but I also love writing scripts and creating characters and stories. The last story I made was called 'The Sisters and the Last Star'. It was about two sisters who were losing hope in the good in the world. The stars started disappearing and they were down to the last star. They had to regain hope to find it.

I feel overwhelmed in a good way when people come and watch something I am in. The other members of the drama group cheer me on, give me great criticism and positive feedback. This makes me feel proud so that I can stand up for myself and 'dodge bullies'.

The thing I like most about being part of Prospect Theatre for Young People is making new friends and building towards a career. It makes me feel proud of myself and makes me believe that I can do more films.

My big message to everyone out there is: GIVE IT A TRY! It might be better than you think. Always be brave and follow your heart. See you around!

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