



GATEWAYS FESTIVALS

MEET OUR PRESENTERS

Aleesah Darlison is an internationally-published, award-winning author. She's written over forty-five books for young people including the *Netball Gems Series*, the *Unicorn Riders Series*, *Warambi*, *Emerald: The Green Turtle's Tale*, and *Awesome Animal Stories for Kids*. In 2020 Aleesah will release a new series called *LOL Llamas* through Penguin Random House. She is a CBCA Notable author. Aleesah has won or been shortlisted for numerous awards including the Environment Award for Children's Literature and the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Awards. She travels the world delivering author talks and writing workshops and creating a love of literature and learning wherever she goes.

Diana Thanos is an experienced, highly effective, innovative primary school teacher with a Graduate Certificate in Gifted Education from UNSW. Her fast-paced, fun and engaging approach has led her to the G.A.T.E.WAYS team, where she focuses on teaching like-minded individuals in an exciting, hands on environment. Diana is passionate about creativity and has a love of learning that is both contagious and inspiring!

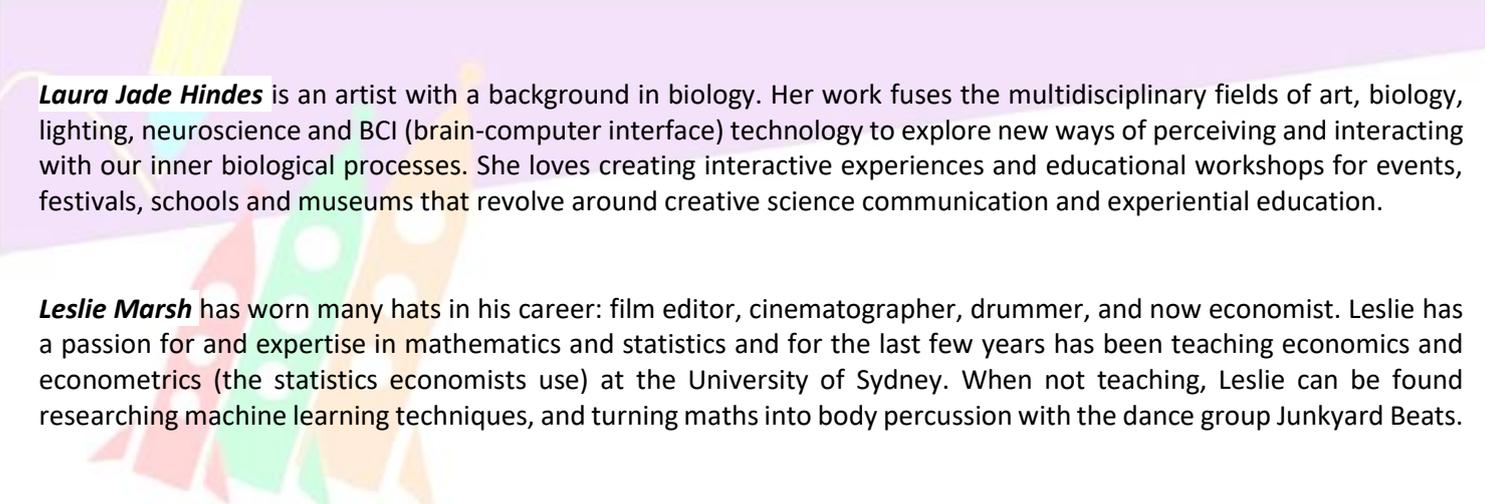
Emily Taylor is an actor with over fifteen years' experience who has appeared in a number of television programs including *Get Krack!n*, *Home and Away*, *The Dr Blake Mysteries*, *It's A Date* and *Underbelly*. She has worked extensively in comedy, sketch and improvisation with troupes such as *Spontaneous Broadway*, *Random Musical*, *Impro Melbourne* and *Melbourne Playback*. Emily has worked as a writer, director and facilitator across Australia and New Zealand and is a regular teaching artist with Melbourne Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre, Drama Victoria and Arena Theatre Company.

Erin Mansell is an experienced primary school teacher who has completed a Master of Education specialising in Gifted Education at the University of New South Wales. In addition to working as an educational presenter for G.A.T.E.WAYS, she also works as an online academic teacher and is currently facilitating the learning of over 100 undergraduate education students. Erin is a dedicated educator who is very passionate about providing extension opportunities to gifted students.

Jacqx Melilli is a playwright, editor and drama teacher. She has a Master of Arts degree in Writing and Literature and is the author of the *Lights, Camera, Action* series of educational books on filmmaking and theatre production and multiple award-winning one-act plays performed at Eisteddfods and Theatre Festivals. Jacqx has worked in film, television and theatre and has conducted workshops at the Gold Coast Writer's Festival Authors in Schools program and Creative Writing for Young Geniuses.

Kate Parker is a writer specialising in science communications and has a passion for science advocacy and critical thinking. She is an accredited ethics teacher, and always encourages curiosity and thought-provoking discussion in her workshops. Kate is experienced in the field of gifted education and is excited to have the opportunity to explore the wonders of science with G.A.T.E.WAYS.

Kirsty Warren is fascinated by the world around us and how we process it. After completing a double Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Philosophy, Kirsty went on to become a qualified science teacher in London. Her goal as a teacher is to encourage students to become inquisitive, challenge their existing understanding and have a thirst for knowledge. Kirsty is currently enjoying her role as a G.A.T.E.WAYS program coordinator.



Laura Jade Hindes is an artist with a background in biology. Her work fuses the multidisciplinary fields of art, biology, lighting, neuroscience and BCI (brain-computer interface) technology to explore new ways of perceiving and interacting with our inner biological processes. She loves creating interactive experiences and educational workshops for events, festivals, schools and museums that revolve around creative science communication and experiential education.

Leslie Marsh has worn many hats in his career: film editor, cinematographer, drummer, and now economist. Leslie has a passion for and expertise in mathematics and statistics and for the last few years has been teaching economics and econometrics (the statistics economists use) at the University of Sydney. When not teaching, Leslie can be found researching machine learning techniques, and turning maths into body percussion with the dance group Junkyard Beats.

Sam McNair is a caricaturist, illustrator, teacher and apiarist. On weekends he works at events drawing caricatures on the spot, and during the week as an educator and mentor for young artists. Sam is currently working on a picture book appropriating works by Pieter Bruegel the Elder. He relishes the opportunity to guide young artists and mathematicians in a student-centered fashion to unleash their imagination and creativity upon the world.

Sappho Dalziell is an experienced teacher with a Master of Fine Arts at COFA (UNSW) and is completing her Certificate of Gifted Education this year. She has studied both Art History and Philosophy. Sappho has a wealth of experience in implementing an interdisciplinary approach to teaching Literacy.

Zuzi Fort studied at the University of Western Sydney – Nepean (Theatre) and at the University of Technology – Sydney (Communication – directing and scriptwriting). She has worked as an actor, director, scriptwriter, drama coach, radio/TV host as well as a stunt performer. Highlights include performing Moliere at the Belvoir, acting with David Ritchie in Place with the Pigs, playing Tiger Lily at Capitol Theatre, performing stunts on the Superman movie and working for the Universal Studios. For over ten years, Zuzi has worked with children and young adults encouraging their creativity, developing confidence and essential life skills.