

Returning the Gaze: the hero-project how to join politics, youth empowerment and entertainment Jennifer Lyons-Reid and Carl Kuddell, tallstoreez productionz

Directing the Hero Within is one of Australia's largest digital storytelling projects for young people. The umbrella project encompasses video workshops, 'train the trainer' professional development, an interactive website, a youth film festival and a DVD training resource. Developed in the field in consultation with educators, youth workers and young people, the project is founded on the principles of community, youth-empowerment, peer mentoring and student voice and invites young people to creatively claim their future. Created by tallstoreez productionz in association with the South Australian Film Corporation, Directing the Hero Within has become a dynamic and supportive youth media network.



DTHW Director Jennifer Lyons-Reid with Pinnaroo student. © tallstoreez 2006

Directing the Hero Within Youth Video Workshops

Directing the Hero Within run video workshops for schools and youth groups in metropolitan and regional areas. Workshops are tailored to give every participant a hands-on introduction to digital video making. The workshops cover concept development, storyboarding, camera techniques, sound recording and in-camera

editing. Depending on the size and duration of the workshop, the course can also cover non-linear digital editing and web distribution. By the end of the workshop each group will have made their own film.

Educators Professional Development Training Sessions

Our Professional Development Training gives community workers and teachers the confidence and expertise they need to make digital storytelling part of their work in community groups and schools.



DTHW students filming for Pinnaroo Surfer. © tallstoreez 2005

Interactive Website

Our website, <www.directingthehero.com>, will be the nexus for the Directing the Hero Within community. Here groups can upload their film, view examples of student work, find extra tips, post comments and participate in forums—all within a specially designed and monitored digital site.

Directing the Hero Within Festival

The Directing the Hero Within Festival will be launched during the 2007 Come Out—the Australian Festival for Young People.

Directing the Hero Within Training DVD

The workshops and the DVD Educator's Starter Kit package are designed for emerging filmmakers, classrooms and youth groups. They are suitable for the absolute beginner or those who want to skill-up on

a particular aspect of digital storytelling. Featuring dramatic landscapes, a dynamic young host and a funky design, the Directing the Hero Within package is a high-quality digital media experience.

Nine short films, six behind-scenes-documentaries and eleven training modules showcase the rich talent of Australia's regional young people. By following the behind-the-scenes clips viewers are rewarded with delightful insights into the filmmaker's own learning and the inspiration to make their own digital story.



dreamcatcher, artists
Jennifer Lyons-Reid & Carl
KuddeU with sculpture.
©tallstoreez 2006

Directing the Hero Within is leading the way in:

- promoting youth-empowerment and identity
- supporting peer education
- developing new strategies for school retention
- providing media literacy programs across the curriculum

- bridging the digital gap using Information Technology and social documentary
- investing in creative digital learning tools
- encouraging vibrant online youth digital storytelling communities
- supporting youth participation in the community through documentary practice
- empowering regional and marginalised communities

A partnership of tallstoreez productionz, SA Film Corporation, the Office for Youth, SAYAB, Country Arts SA, Arts SA, Come Out.

Links

Directing the Hero Within
<www.directingthehero.com>

Tallstoreez Productionz
<www.tallstoreez.com>