

# Digital Natives Is Set To Blow Your Mind

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Source: GlowBored

*Words by Matt Huxley*

**IF** by some miraculous stroke of good judgement you follow my articles, you will know that I previously did an article on the ASPA-FTV production **Digital Natives**: Well their fantastic show is right around the corner and myself and fellow writer Samara Nilsson were lucky enough to sit down with one of the ASPA-FTV founding directors, Amanda Harwick, as well as **Digital Natives** director, Talia Rowley and two young performers, Seth and Jackie. Have a read.

## **MM: WHY SOCIAL MEDIA?**

Amanda: Well I'm obsessed with social media so I knew that I wanted to do something about it. And for the kids as well because they love it as much as we do and it just sort of developed from there. We wanted to avoid the usual stories about cyberbullying and the like and present something a bit different.

## **WHAT WILL PEOPLE TAKE AWAY?**

Jackie: I think in Limbo it's a real eye opener about the branding in social media and how people present themselves. We don't tend to notice it a lot of the time. Limbo really shows everyone that.

Seth: people might start checking how they take pictures and so they might show their real selves to their followers, not just presenting themselves in a way that's not true to themselves.

A: he's a beautiful little idealist

Samara: I'm going to go take some selfies now..

### **HOW LONG HAVE STUDENTS BEEN WORKING ON IT?**

Talia: 20 weeks. Over a semester, we see these guys for 2 hours once a week. We don't have long to pull it together. 2 terms and then three shows, so it's all go go go.

J: I've never really known any different, it motivates you to do it well and work harder. When it's in such a short time, we are getting those ideas out there, it's really great.



Clockwise from back left: Amanda, Talia, Seth and Jackie || Source: GlowBored

### **WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT?**

A: We had just come out of our previous production La La Land. The stories were very different. I think instead of leaving it so open, I wanted to explore something around branding and make it relevant towards these guys. Specifically the way that we create ourselves online

as opposed to our real selves. These guys have grown up with it and they never realise that they're doing it.

### **WHAT CAN PEOPLE EXPECT FROM THE PLAY?**

S: I'm doing Techagedon and it's about a lot of different personalities like the fact that we love our phones so much. We put a lot of pictures up and the power goes out and we have to interact face to face, so we are a bit disturbed and we start to discover all of the new things like playing board games. And one of our characters actually they discover that he turned the power off so they get all angry at him. It's really cool.

Samara: It's like Lord of the Flies with electricity.

### **WHO DEVELOPED THE STORY?**

A: The three groups have three different writers. Teacher, writer and director, like Talia here.

T: Yes me. Haha. Um it wasn't too challenging because it's a work in progress. We do it on the go and it's very collaborative I try and include their ideas, they have to want to do it. We sat down and had discussions on what they thought social media and branding meant and then we would improvise on those ideas. And just put it all together.

### **HAS IT CHANGED HOW YOU USE SOCIAL MEDIA?**

J: I'd like to think so. I'm more aware of the personal branding aspect of it. I will think about it a bit more before I post. Before I never really thought about it, but now I think of how people will view me, I've never really thought about it. It probably will inspire me to use it smarter.

A: We've talked about how hard it must be to grow up with this because there's no rule book.

### **ANY FURTHER COMMENTS?**

S + J: Come see it!

A: It's a great experience, we want it to be entertaining. We don't go into the dark waters of cyberbullying, we want it to be a family show. It's interesting and I think that everyone will take something away from it. We want people to leave thinking about aspects of social media that they hadn't thought of before.



Source: GlowBored

Digital Natives will show at the Cremorne Theatre, QPAC, on the 13th December, 6pm. To make a booking visit the QPAC website [HERE](#). Or ring them on 136 246.

*Matt Huxley is a writer, editor and talent manager. He enjoys prodigious amounts of caffeine and has been known to direct and style the odd photoshoot. Follow Matt @matthux1 on Instagram and Twitter.*