

TRIBUTE TO NORAH MORGAN

Jennifer Simons

I was introduced to Norah Morgan by a mutual friend in Canada when I lived there in 1967-68. Because I myself was not involved in drama teaching at that time I remained unaware of the formidable reputation Norah was already developing in the field. My first impression was that she was one of the wittiest, warmest and most charismatic women I had ever met.

Norah was a great friend to many Australians. She spent a good deal of time here, especially in Tasmania, visiting her son Charles, his wife Jenny and her beloved grandchildren. From this base, and especially after her NADIE keynote in Hobart in 1988, Norah developed deep and abiding friendships with many Australians in each state and territory. Her mind was ever enquiring and the incisiveness developed during the teaching of her original love, mathematics, was never far below the surface of her drama thinking. The trade mark question of Julius Sumner Miller 'Why is it so?' may equally have been Norah's touchstone, with the addition that her artistry and teaching ability led her to pursue this enquiry through the body, using drama education. Independently of Dorothy Heathcote she developed her own version of Teaching in Role, and teaching across the curriculum.

We also owe a debt to Norah for her role as a great teacher-educator. Writing several books in collaboration with her great friend Juliana Saxton she was able to articulate for generations how to use Drama for enlightenment. Before any other writers Morgan and Saxton anticipated and answered bread and butter questions about how to develop teacher know-how and confidence in the classroom

Over nearly forty years I was lucky to develop my own friendship with Norah, What a woman!

She was a powerful role model, and her life remains an exemplum of how to move through the world with goodness and grace. Her brilliant smile lit the room and her sense of humour never failed.

The beautiful home she established with Ted at The Millstone became a haven for travellers from all over the world, and it is a great satisfaction to all who loved her that her ashes are scattered in the forest there, where she so loved to walk.

Norah Morgan will be sadly missed by her friends all around the world.