

I first started at the drama studio in 1997 at an Easter holiday programme in Stockbridge. I had decided some four years prior that I was going to be an actress, a dream I have carried for twenty years thanks to the drama studio. It all started in 97 at Stockbridge but things got serious in 2000. All groups across Edinburgh got together for a big show. I still remember the feeling I got as the audience began laughing to my recital of the reply to the wee malkies. And that was only the beginning. When the Viewforth Saturday group was put together I was excited. But I had no idea just how many amazing memories, friends and life lessons I would get from this small drama group. Those first few shows were a golden time in my childhood. We really felt like we were putting together great productions and the group was so tight.

In Frankentongs I broke my foot. In Mr Mump's Surprise I found my voice. In Caked in Duels I got to play the lead I always wanted. As well as all the great stage experience, the improvisation, the songs, and the dance moves, were the friendships. I lived my week for Saturdays (and then Fridays) I loved show time and even when I outgrew the group I stayed for as long as possible.

And now I'm 24, I have a degree and I currently live in Australia. But I can be 13 and back in Viewforth hall in a heartbeat. Thank you Drama Studio, and here's to the next 20 years.

Joanna Haden

Joanna studied Philosophy and Theology at The University of Glasgow and is currently living in Melbourne Australia