

*They say that memory's greatest trigger is smell, however for me it must be music: the way that a song can whisk you back to a moment you have gone very long without remembering. It has been nearly five years since I was last involved with the Drama Studio yet still, maybe once or twice a week even, I am instantly and vividly taken to one of a thousand memories by a song that we once used. Adverts, films, lift music: anything can do it. I can be anywhere, in a situation utterly removed from that church hall in Viewforth far too early on a Saturday morning, and be briefly and completely transported to *James Bond*, or *The Mystery of Loch Ness*, or to any other one of the many productions I participated in. But although the shows seem to loom largest in my memory, I think the really lasting impression of what the Drama Studio does is everything but. I was lucky enough to see a little of the process from the other side, helping out with running the classes, and what I saw was often nothing short of miracles. Kids who arrived and would not speak a word would, within three months, be performing in front of friends and family on a stage. Julie, I hope that nothing at all has changed because what you did with us was brilliant and I have no doubt that many kids are still enjoying, and many more will go on to enjoy, the same boost to their self-confidence, the same skills for the future and the same good fun that we had. And in years time, maybe those kids will hear a song in some far-away place and be briefly taken back to the stage in Adam House theatre.*

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