

Jacki Tipton

Film Production Assistant

HSC Year: 2005

ATAR: 90.3



Training (e.g. TAFE, University etc):

- Newcastle University
- Newcastle Workers Education Union : French Language

Special Educational Achievements:

- Achieved a Double Major with Distinctions in Film and Television Studies and Theatre Studies, with a Minor in Visual Arts and Photography
- Asked to return to Newcastle to Study Honours in 5 separate subject areas

Jobs (at university and afterwards):

- Stage Manager for theatre production “Narrow Road To The Deep North”
- Also worked in the theatre as Assistant Stage Manager, Lighting Department, Props and Costuming Department and in other various theatre crews
- Worked for the Just Jeans “Kimberly Awards” as a props and wardrobe organiser for the catwalk models
- Also worked at the Dorsal Boutique Hotel in Forster, Crossroads, Just Jeans, and The Brackenridge Tavern in Brisbane, and Kurrawa Surf Life Saving Club on the Gold Coast.

What are you doing now?

I'm currently working in the Gold Coast to earn money to move over to the USA to continue trying to work in the Film and Television industry. I'm dabbling in Movie Extra work in Queensland and spending my spare time assisting with any film productions I can, including most recently assisting with location scouting for the upcoming film “The Grandmothers” (to be shot this year in Seal Rocks starring Naomi Watts, Robin Wright and Xavier Samuel).

Relevant Experiences since leaving school (e.g. special achievements)

- The “Kimberly Awards” in Brisbane City
- Location scouting/photography for “The Grandmothers” in Seal Rocks
- A lot of travel (USA, Canada, Mexico, Europe, England etc.)

Interesting Experiences

- Watched the shooting of the new “Muppets” Movie at Warner Brothers Studio in California
- Attended the Film premiere for “Faster” at Graumans Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California

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It's all about meeting people in your life who can help you get where you want to be and using those contacts to make your dreams come true. If you hear about something that you may be interested in then go for it and you might surprise yourself.



Other comments /Memories from Chatham High Days:

- Pick classes in your senior year that you really enjoy and make good friends. If you enjoy coming to class and have fun it doesn't make work seem so much like work. I loved Visual Arts and Drama and had teachers that made the classes entertaining, and those classes helped to mould the type of person I want to be and the industry I want to work in. My other classes were great too (e.g. Science, Legal Studies etc.) but those were definitely my favourites. Make sure you have a great group of friends too. They make all the difference to how much you enjoy high school. My best friends from school are still my best friends today and I don't have a memory without them in it. From getting detention for talking too much in class, to making jokes in loooong assembly speeches always starting with Mr. Fitzpatrick saying "I'll Be Brief...", to acting like idiots and performing our favourite movie scenes together in D block only to find out we had the entire English staff room watching us from above (laughing of course). Good friends make memories that last a life time.

Tips for our students

Whilst completing HSC (e.g. how to gain the desired UAI)

- Enjoy your time at school because it flies by so quickly. Don't stress out. The pressure of exams can be tough but you will make it through. Use your teachers. They are there to help you receive the results you desire. Re-read and re-read your work until it's second nature. Writing and practicing proforma essays is also extremely valuable and takes a lot of the stress out of exams. Remember failing to prepare is preparing to fail (a corny quote but very true). Also, although your HSC is important do try to find some time to relax, and remember if you don't get your desired result, life goes on and it's not the end of the world. I've seen a lot of people nearly crack under the pressure so don't let that happen to you. Be confident in your abilities to get where you want in life. Where there is a will there is a way.

Going to University (e.g. living away from home tips, university life)

- Do your research when looking for accommodation. On campus accommodation might not be the right choice for you. There is also off campus housing and rooming with friends. All are good options but have different costs so pick something that's right for you. Uni is a lot more laid back than high school and you are trusted to pick your own class times and decide if you turn up on time etc. So pick the classes that are right for you, and organise your schedule well. Don't pick classes that conflict in times etc. Also get in quick when picking your classes because the best times

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fill up fast! Also, no one is really watching over your shoulder to make sure you do your assignments on time so make sure your organised or you might get stuck doing some last minute cramming (not that we haven't all been there once in a while)



Getting a job (during and after university)

- A good Resume is key. Make sure it is set out neatly and to the point and the less clutter the better. Your possible employer might have only a few minutes to read it so make sure your get their attention fast. In job interviews be on time (or even a little early), be presentable and be friendly. First impressions last.

Other Tips

- Be confident. If you're confident in yourself and your abilities others will feed off that and be confident in you too. And most importantly, follow your dreams! I can't say this enough. Don't listen to anyone who says you can't do it because you can. Just work extra hard and make sure you get the chance to prove them wrong. The world is your oyster.