

Our Thoughts of Adrian Lania
Our Colleague, Friend and Teacher



9th January 1976 – 20th October 2018

May he rest in peace

There are no words to express my deep sadness in hearing the tragic news of Adrian's passing.

I can only imagine the grief and loss you must be experiencing in this time.

Adrian was one of the most unique, unconventional and gifted teachers/ mentors I have ever been lucky enough to have crossed paths with and I will be eternally thankful of my short but valuable time in his company.

Adrian was so other - worldly he could not be tamed and I smile in his memory.

I hope I shall see you in the coming weeks to celebrate Adrian's life and also so I may give you a hug in person until then I am holding you in my heart.

Much love,

Dannie

I am so sorry to hear about our beloved Adrian and so deeply sad to know that he is no longer with us. I miss him already!

Some thoughts I have to say about Adrian:

Adrian was an inspiration to so many. He had such a keen and inquisitive mind and was one of the most intelligent people I know, and he enjoyed sharing his knowledge and his love of learning which inspired others to learn, to push themselves, to stretch their own understanding of things. Adrian was a great teacher and communicator and had a way of taking his students on a journey that made them excited and enthusiastic about what they were learning.

Adrian was brave. He travelled through a lot of worlds, physically, mentally and emotionally. He settled in Australia and navigated the culture and traditions, and had a way of 'fitting in' while never losing his own culture or uniqueness. He travelled around the world making close friends, wonderful connections and sharing and learning about dramatherapy, theatre, and working with people in a wide variety of ways. He bravely walked through the journey of illness, sharing his struggles with others without stigma or shame and inspiring others to share openly about their own struggles with illness as well. I always admired his courage and strength.

Adrian had a wonderful sense of humour, playfulness and fun. It was impossible to spend time with Adrian without laughing, sharing something funny that had happened or just being playful.

Adrian was a wonderful performer and used his natural ability for comedy, his large capacity for empathy and his keen understanding of human nature to portray characters and situations with so much authenticity and credibility. He looked so natural in performance and in his element on the stage.

Adrian was incredibly thoughtful, caring and compassionate. He put others' needs before his own, he loved his friends and family and had a huge capacity for giving to others.

Adrian was intelligent, funny, loving, thoughtful, inspiring, unique, honest, trustworthy and genuine. Adrian was loved.

Lots of love,

Catie xx

Adrian was enormously fun. He really knew how to play and inspire playfulness. One fond memory of playing with Adrian was when I returned to Sydney after having moved interstate. I was yearning for playful connection. I locked eyes with Adrian within the play, and I remember feeling Adrian's enormous sense of fun. He was really 'going for it' in the play, and connecting with him unleashed my own playfulness, with a huge "yes, let's!".

Adrian was enormously generous, and always looking out for how he could help his colleagues and progress dramatherapy in Australia. When I moved back to Australia, I had only just met Adrian, and he immediately offered for me to come and work with him, so I could build up my dramatherapy hours.

Adrian was enormously hard working and a leading dramatherapy pioneer in Australia. He was always 'flying our flag', and the dramatherapy community is forever indebted to him for his sheer 'hard yaka', perseverance and commitment. He was instrumental in enabling dramatherapists to be registered with the art therapy organisation, and for the organisation to add an 's' to include all arts therapists. This is just one example of how Adrian put dramatherapy 'on the map' in Australia.

Adrian, I loved your playful spirit. I am heartbroken I will not be able to play with you again. Thank you for playing with me. Thank you for your selfless service to dramatherapy in Australia and for choosing us as your adopted country. We will never forget you and will always treasure you. I will be looking up for a trickster in the sky.

Amanda Cross

Adrian was a soulmate to me. I may not have been to him, but since 2000, he has always been there, with his knife-sharp wit, his confetti of ideas, his great love of humanity and his brilliant inner child who understood children so well and could speak their language.

Adrian was stardust and wisdom, playmate and teacher, brother, friend and colleague. He swore he was not spiritual, but he sometimes played with the angels, and when I took the Virgin Mary wafer out of his Polish Christmas card, he was furious. "Where is the WAFER?" I said I thought he wasn't religious and just got a frosty look. He was kind and compassionate, but honest to himself, so he would not suffer fools gladly. Sometimes we were all fools, but he could laugh at himself so well that he would join us in foolery. One of the things I loved about him was that he would make fun out of the times he got himself into trouble in a way I never could. I would probably ruminate for days or weeks (even in my much more outspoken seventies) when he would just toss it aside and put it down to part of life.

Adrian knew how to have fun like few people I have met. He liked practical jokes, and when he was 40 he still wanted to be Peter Pan, and never grow up, so he organised games to play jokes on us, so we could all be adolescents together. He would always find a way of bringing his friends back into the world again if we had withdrawn, or cheering us up if we were sad. His Polish bravado shook our sometimes all too Anglo-Celtic worlds.

He had brilliant ideas, and it was great to co-teach with him, because we could each shoot the other's ideas at any time (his ideas were usually better than mine) and neither of us bore a grudge. He was sometimes ephemeral, but I was not prepared enough for this permanent dull ache of no Adrian, the dear heart, in the world. Yet I learned so much from him and am so grateful to have known him.

Vale, Adrian.

Joanna

I really don't know what to say at this time, the loss of Adrian is heartbreaking and I am thinking of you and sending you love and light at this time. It is a shock on so many levels, but Adrian will always be apart of my journey now and into the future especially with Dramatherapy and creative arts applications to help heal and evoke change for who ever needs it.

With love from Bella

I'm so so sorry to know Adrian was hurting. I know personally this sort of loss - and it can be so hard to live with.

Thinking of you Joanna. Stay strong and feel the feelings.....

Sincerely

Professor Tarquam McKenna

Adrian, I will miss you.

Adrian was my teacher, my friend, my playmate and my mentor. His passion and knowledge inspired so many people to have the courage to use dramatherapy to help others. Thank you for inspiring and teaching me. And for your huge generosity of spirit, willingness to share your experience and share your heart.

Spending time with Adrian always brought such joy, love, laughter and insight. His amazing intellect and mischievous spirit created a truly special person. I feel so lucky to have been able to call him my friend and teacher. I will always remember Adrian's courage, passion and love. And I am so sorry for the sadness and pain you lived with. As I continue to share the dramatherapy magic your spirit will be with me.

Thank you Adrian.

Rachel