

Drama School was life changing

Continued from p13

Performing and Screen Arts at Unitec in 2006. Her first professional role was in the film *I'm not Harry Jensen*, produced by and starring former *Shortland Street* actor Tom Herr.

She has also had roles in shows including *Legend of the Seeker*, *The Almighty Johnsons*, *Underbelly NZ: Land of the Long Green Cloud*, the telemovie *Bliss*, and enjoys singing — she was the voice behind the *Woman's Day* magazine “you just made my day” jingle. In December, she sang to a national audience as part of the cast of Coca Cola Christmas in the Park. She is about to start work on a new TV project, and has plans to get back in the theatre at some stage this year.

Last Monday, she was in Hawke's Bay speaking to drama and English students about NYDS, hoping to encourage a few more along to the next one next month.

Once her student days were over, Blampied came back as an assistant. She is a member of its management board. “It's not even all about the drama, they may not have any confidence in

themselves but you watch people blossom over the week. It did so much for me and I love watching the same thing happening for them.

“I hope I have encouraged some of those kids to come to the school.”

Rachael Blampied, actress

“I have seen many students go on to become successful professionals and lots of the people I know in the industry have been there. I reckon about half the people I meet on the other side of the camera, the camera and sound people and so on, they have been to NYDS as well.”

The talks generated some interesting questions, among them, did her acting career turn out the way she expected? She wasn't sure how to answer that but felt she wouldn't do things any differently, even though it meant sometimes she was broke



TOP TIPS: Hinehou Ryland, 15, Rachael Blampied and Mary Taito, 17.

and just got by with a “day job”. “When I do get to do what I absolutely love most, it's just so exhilarating and satisfying and that's the whole reason I do it.

“I hope I have encouraged some of those kids to come to the school and I've shown them it really is possible because I can say, look, it started for

me right here.”

For more info about the 2013 National Youth Drama School or scholarships, visit nyds.co.nz

PHOTO/GLENN TAYLOR