Liam Jarvis, University of Essex

Dr Liam Jarvis

https://www.essex.ac.uk/people/jarvi94108/liam-jarvis

When lockdown struck it looked like University of Essex theatre studies students might miss the chance of a lifetime to be part of a new piece of theatre but, thanks to the ingenuity of Dr Liam Jarvis, a teacher with a proven track record for innovation, and 25 VR headsets sent around the globe, they got a unique learning experience.

Liam tore up the script for his planned intensive workshop with actor and director Mella Faye. With four weeks to spare, he redirected funds, negotiated a deal with a theatre-streaming service and created a virtual residency so even the student in Singapore could watch performances, take part in storytelling workshops and pitch a reinvention of a Greek myth.

As one student said it "taught us that in times of hardship one must be resilient and come up with new and original ideas...and that...art can still happen from wherever we are."