

mX Brisbane and Sydney

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It's not all work

with ANTHONY GARVIN
SAE Institutes

*SAE operates nationally with campuses
throughout Australia.*

Q. What is your job title?

A. I am the Short Course Manager at SAE Institute Sydney, a global college teaching courses in sound engineering, film production, electronic music production and creative media. I am also a freelance composer and sound designer, and one half of production duo Dept.



Q. What exactly is it that you do to music in the production studio – why does music need to be “mixed”?

A. Bands give us the individual elements of their songs, which we pull apart then put back together in our own way. Mixing is done near the end of production and refers to polishing the song, making the instruments work together sonically.

Q. How did you end up in music production?

A. As a kid I played piano, as a teenager I played drums and then became interested in samplers and keyboards. I've also always had an almost geek-like interest in recording technology.

Q. You're also a respected teacher of music production technologies. Why did you want to teach when you already have a well-established career in the industry?

A. I love teaching, helping talented people realise their potential and become great at what they do.

Q. Do you think music production is a talent that anyone can learn, or that only certain people are skilled at it?

A. Some people have more of a natural inclination for it, but I think anyone who is passionate and devoted to music can develop the skills. Music production has many creative facets, such as beat production, sound design and the unique features of different software, for which we run specific classes at the SAE Institute. These are skills which you need to learn and hone to make it in the industry.

Q. What is your favourite or most memorable piece of music you've written or produced, and why?

A. It's hard to pick just one . . . but most recently, I spent a lot of time with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Katie Noonan, producing synth parts and sound effects for their Sublime tour. It was an amazing experience, working with Richard Tognetti (one of the world's leading violin players) and Katie (ex-singer from Australian band George).

Q. Music production sounds like quite a glamorous career. What are some of the downsides, less enjoyable or more mundane parts of the job?

A. Long hours and not having much of a life outside of music.

Q. What kind of music do you listen to in your spare time?

A. As much as I can, from jazz and blues to folk, to experimental and dance music.

– with RACHEL WALTON