

Meerkat
Productions



INCURSIONS GUIDE 2015/16

MEERKATPRODUCTIONS.COM.AU

HELLO!

★ WE'RE MEERKAT PRODUCTIONS ★



ABOUT US

Meerkat Productions specialize in adapting children's literature for the stage; creating fresh and vibrant productions which prompt discussion and debate with students.

We are owned and operated by qualified teachers.

Our role (and our passion) is to empower children by entertaining them with theatre. We choose to tackle the issues that are difficult for teachers to raise in the classroom. Our shows enable students and teachers to engage in the conversations they must have and our teacher resources enable them to handle the discussion effectively.

In our opinion, exposing young people to live performance from a young age is critical. Our children are part of a technology based culture, and we are in danger of losing the wonder of storytelling, the magic of seeing real actors unravel a story before your eyes, and the sheer delight of seeing a live performance. Theatre has the ability to create life long memories for children and adults alike.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2015/16

Whether it's a new lick of paint or updating the messages in our shows we are constantly trying to improve the experience of our incursions

This year we've been giving all of our shows an overhaul ready for term 4 2015 and into 2016.

BOOK WEEK – We're opening up a new tour in Queensland which means we now have dates available for Book Week & Literacy week. Get in quick!

BULLY BULL RING – for those of you that know the show, we have removed the Zebra and we've aligned the messages more clearly with You Can Do It! We've also added a new song which focuses on kindness to others

RUDOLF'S RECRUITS – ready for term 4 2015 we've given this show a bit of a face lift and tried to capture some of the elements of a good old traditional pantomime. Plenty of student interaction in this one!

GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES – we've added some focused Q&A in between the stories which enable the students to learn how the puppets work and to have a go themselves

ADVENTURESCOPE – we've changed the story and also made the concepts used more relevant to each primary level

WHY CHOOSE US

We have over 20 years' experience of producing amazing theatre. Our creative team contains some of the best practitioners working in Australian theatre. Our composers have worked on numerous national tours of shows like The Lion King, Jersey Boys and Grease. Our designer & puppet maker was part of the inaugural female directors program with Melbourne Theatre Company and tutors theatre students internationally.

All of our shows are fully staged musicals lasting one hour; including a well structured and informative Q&A session which we use to discuss the themes in the show and also how we made the set, puppets, music, etc. We encourage audience participation and active engagement in all of our performances.

We use puppetry to fully engage the students and to broaden the possibilities of the way we stage our shows.

WE PROVIDE EXPERIENCES THAT ARE:

**LITERACY DRIVEN CURRICULUM-BASED
SEEN BY 50,000 STUDENTS YEARLY
INFORMATIVE & ENTERTAINING**

WHAT'S PROVIDED BY US?

- 1 TEACHER RESOURCE PACKS TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR OUR VISIT AND TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION AFTER WE'VE LEFT.**
- 2 ALL STAGING, SOUND AND LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS**
- 3 AN AMAZING SHOW!**
- 4 POST-PERFORMANCE Q&A WITH THE STUDENTS WHERE WE TALK ABOUT THE THEMES RAISED IN THE SHOW, HOW OUR SET, PROPS, PUPPETS, ETC. WORK AND HOW THEY WERE MADE.**



WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

A performance space 8m by 5m, plus enough room for the students to sit and watch the show

Access to the performance space one hour before the show

That's about it!



JUMP ON OUR WEBSITE TO CHECK DATES & AVAILABILITY OR GIVE US A CALL ON 1300 308 311



ANTI-BULLYING: BULLY BULL RING

ABOUT THE SHOW

The characters all perform their own song & dance numbers to help Bellamy understand different approaches to resolving the issues of bullying. With lesson plans & question time incorporating the ideals of programmes such as "You Can Do It" & "Better Buddies" just to name a few. Ideal for schools focussing on bullying into the future.

TESTIMONIALS

"Good lessons that apply to (students) everyday activities" – Beaumaris Primary School, VIC

"A great way to connect Program Achieve to bullying" – Larmenier Catholic Primary School, TAS

"A strong message which was clearly understood" – Birchip School, VIC

"Another high quality production. The standard of performance was excellent." –St Mary's Catholic School, Bairnsdale, VIC



KEY THEMES

Bullying, Racism, Problem Solving, Self-Image

KEY LEARNING AREAS

Drama, Music, Dance, Student Welfare, Civics & Citizenship

AVAILABLE TERMS

1, 2 & 4





FAIRYTALES & PUPPETRY: FRACTURED FAIRYTALES

ABOUT THE SHOW

This is a show in two parts!

Part 1: Good Things Come In Threes

Three of our favourite fairy tales are performed using puppetry.

But here's the twist, the students pick which story is told with which style of puppetry. Between each story the performers show the students how the puppets work.

Part 2: Fractured Fairy Tales

Our optional extra aimed at Grades 3 to 6. We take the same three stories and fracture them. If you book this part we reduce the puppetry workshop to ensure there's time for Q&A at the end.

TESTIMONIALS

"Visually engaging for students, excellent puppets, catchy songs. I enjoyed the costumes, music and puppets, an entertaining performance." – Glenroy West Primary School, VIC

"Sensational!" – Overnewton Anglican Community College Junior School, VIC

"The best thing I've seen in a long time!...The puppets were amazing, really brilliant!...

Brilliant voices!" – Scotch College, Hawthorn, VIC

"Absolutely Brilliant! Please, please come again. Great Inspiration for follow up activities." – East Launceston Primary School, TAS

KEY LEARNING AREAS

Creative
Writing, Drama, Music,
Dance

AVAILABLE TERM

1



MATHS & SCIENCE: ADVENTURESCOPE



ABOUT THE SHOW

This is a highly interactive Maths & Science show where students are constantly asked to be costumed volunteers on stage and become part of the action. We show how maths and science are used to solve everyday problems.

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Doctor Who has locked himself out of his T.A.R.D.I.S. Join him as he enlists the help of some of our favourite movie characters to solve the puzzles and unlock the combination.

TESTIMONIALS

"A wonderful performance...Amazing and awesome!" -St John's Lutheran PS, Kingaroy, QLD

"Prompted great maths discussions! To combine Science and Maths with theatre and film worked very well." -East Launceston PS, East Launceston, TAS

"High standard, fast paced, superb performance!" -Piangil PS, Piangil, VIC

"What a wonderful way to learn about science!" -Auburn PS, Auburn, SA

"Fast paced, great characters and story lines. Science concepts embedded cleverly into each scene." -Watervale PS, Watervale, SA

KEY THEMES

Maths, Science, Problem Solving

KEY LEARNING AREAS

Maths, Science, Drama, Dance and Music

AVAILABLE TERM

2



CBCA BOOK WEEK PICTURE BOOK ADAPTATION



ABOUT THE SHOW

Each year, in celebration of Book Week and Literacy Week, we adapt one of the books shortlisted for the CBCA Picture Book of The Year Award. We create a 40 minute musical production including original songs and puppetry. The chosen book is announced in April, however the tour starts to sell out the previous September so make sure you book early!

OUR RECENT ADAPTATIONS

2015 - **The Stone Lion**

by Margaret Wild and Ritva Voutila

2014 - **The Windy Farm**

by Doug MacLeod and Craig Smith

2013 - **Herman and Rosie**

by Gus Gordon

2012 - **No Bears**

by Meg McKinley

2011 - **Two Peas in a Pod**

by Chris McKimmie

KEY LEARNING AREAS

Drama, Music, Dance,
SOSE, Literacy

AVAILABLE TERM

3

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Drama, Music, Dance,
SOSE, Literacy

AVAILABLE TERM

3

CBCA BOOK WEEK YOUNGER READERS' BOOK ADAPTATION



ABOUT THE SHOW

Each year, in celebration of Book Week and Literacy Week, we adapt one of the books shortlisted for the CBCA Younger Readers Book of The Year Award. We create a 45 minute musical production including original songs and puppetry. The chosen book is announced in April; however the tour starts to sell out the previous September so make sure you book early to avoid disappointment!

OUR RECENT ADAPTATIONS

2015 - **The Simple**

Things

by Bill Condon

2014 - **My Life as an**

Alphabet

by Barry Jonsberg

2013 - **Other Brother**

by Simon French

2012 - **Bungawitta**

by Emily Rodda

2011 - **Duck for a Day**

by Meg McKinley

CHRISTMAS SHOW: RUDOLF'S RECRUITS



ABOUT THE SHOW

A fantastic, original Aussie Christmas adventure. Join Rudolf in his quest to find a team capable of pulling Santa's sleigh.

SYNOPSIS

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer is advertising for new sleigh pullers. All sorts of Aussie animals have come along to audition, but who can do the job?

KEY THEMES

Christmas, Teamwork, Problem Solving, Stereotypes, Friendships, Australian Fauna

KEY LEARNING AREAS

Drama, Music, Science, Textiles, Student Welfare

AVAILABLE TERM

4



**CHECK [MEERKATPRODUCTIONS.COM.AU](https://meerkatproductions.com.au)
FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT EACH SHOW**