

*Meerkat
Productions*



IN-SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GUIDE 2018/19

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 Australian owned and operated by qualified teachers and perform at private functions, schools, libraries and public events.

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.

"...very powerful and opened many doors for discussion." – St Kilda Park Primary School, VIC

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 2018/19?

Record year for our term 3 Book Week adaptations

We've just had the biggest tour we've ever had! Spaces are becoming increasingly limited so if you're interested in a Book Week book adaptation in 2019 book now to avoid disappointment.

Our Fairy Tales and puppetry show is back by popular demand!

Following a revamp this show is available in terms 1 and 2 and supports delivery of the English, Critical & Creative Thinking and Arts curriculum. Have a look over the page for more details.

"The puppets were amazing, really brilliant!!" – Scotch College, Hawthorn, VIC



WHY CHOOSE US?

- We have a really simple booking process! We'll send you a quote which you can accept online and there's nothing to pay until after the performance
- Our performers are all young, professionally trained performers with a current WWCC (or equivalent) and our creative team work in the professional theatre industry
- As members of industry body Live

Performance Australia, we have our own Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct signed by all employees

Our shows use music and puppetry and include a structured and informative Q&A session which supports the school's delivery of the **Critical and Creative Thinking curriculum**. We discuss the themes in the show and also how we made the set, puppets,

music, etc. We also encourage audience participation and active engagement in all of our performances.

Not only that, we bring you some of the best practitioners in Australian Theatre. Amanda and Carl have over 20 years' experience and all of our creative team work in the professional theatre industry, including the musicals *The Sound of Music* and *The Lion King* and at Melbourne Theatre Company.

IN-SCHOOL PERFORMANCES AVAILABLE 2018/19

TO ENQUIRE CALL 1300 308 311

PERSONAL & SOCIAL CAPABILITY • TERM 1 & 2

UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS: MR HUFF



ABOUT THE SHOW

Bill is having a bad day. Mr Huff is following him around and making everything seem difficult. Bill tries to get rid of him, but Mr Huff just gets bigger and bigger! Then they both stop, and a surprising thing happens... Our adaptation of Anna Walker's award winning book enables children to identify emotions and learn how to deal with them.

TESTIMONIALS

"Wonderful that children are exposed to such relevant mental health issues through quality drama." – St Columba Anglican School, Port Macquarie, NSW

"Excellent opportunities for all children to participate. Age appropriate to help embed learning how to manage emotions." – St Stephen's College, Upper Coomera, QLD

"I have one particular student who often experiences 'the huffs'. You made his day. ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT!!!" – Gayndah State School, QLD

KEY THEMES

Anxiety in children, Emotional Intelligence, dealing with a bad day, resilience, mindfulness

CURRICULUM AREAS

Personal & Social Capability; Health & Physical Education; Critical & Creative Thinking; English; Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 6





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. The show focuses on strategies to manage both online and face to face bullying. We also discuss Emotional Intelligence as Bellamy tries to understand and manage her emotional responses. Includes lesson plans and a targeted question time incorporating the ideas of programs such as **“You Can Do It”** & **“Better Buddies”**.

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, Problem Solving, Self-Image

CURRICULUM AREAS

Personal & Social Capability; Ethical Capability; Health & Physical Education; Critical & Creative Thinking; Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 6



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 three different styles of 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 and some are able to have a go at operating them.

Suitable for: Prep to Grade 6

Part 2: Fractured Fairy Tales

Our optional extra. We take the same three stories and fracture them into one 15 minute story. If you book this part we reduce the puppetry workshop to ensure there's time for Q&A at the end.

Suitable for: Grade/Year 3 to 6

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!!"– Scotch College, Hawthorn, VIC

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

KEY THEMES

Fairy tales, Puppetry

CURRICULUM AREAS

English; Critical & Creative Thinking;

Arts

TO ENQUIRE CALL 1300 308 311

BOOK WEEK ADAPTATIONS OF CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS • TERM 3

ABOUT THE SHOW

Each year, in celebration of Book Week and Literacy Week, we adapt two books shortlisted by the CBCA Picture Book & Younger Readers Book of The Year Awards. We create a 40 minute musical production including original songs and puppetry. The chosen books are announced in May, however the tour starts to sell out the previous September so make sure you book early to avoid disappointment!

OUR RECENT ADAPTATIONS

PICTURE BOOK



YOUNGER READERS NOVEL



CURRICULUM AREAS

English; Critical & Creative Thinking; Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Picture Book – Prep to Grade 6; Younger Readers
– Grade / Year 3 to 7



TESTIMONIALS FROM BOY

"Fabulous. Completely at the children's level." – Armadale Primary School, VIC

"An intelligent adaptation." – Virginia Primary School, VIC

"Great use of mixed medium. Puppet was clever for Boy." – Mackay Regional Council, QLD

"Fantastic connections to text." – Dayboro State School, QLD

"The strong messages were highlighted around social behaviour." – St Catherine's School, VIC

"Interactive nature – fabulous!" – St Monica's, Evatt ACT

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE ELEPHANT

"Sensitively handled." – St James, Vermont VIC

"Great use of the space, humour and dialogue. It told the story in a thoughtful and inclusive way." – Harrison School, ACT

"Characters were beautifully presented." – Queenwood School For Girls, NSW

CHRISTMAS SHOW: RUDOLPH'S RECRUITS



ABOUT THE SHOW

A fantastic, original Aussie Christmas adventure. Join Rudolph in his quest to find a team of local Australian animals capable of pulling Santa's sleigh. Includes a visit from Santa too!! Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer is advertising for new sleigh pullers and all sorts of Aussie animals have come along to audition. But who can do the job? Rudolph can't pull the sleigh on his own and Santa will be arriving soon... What can Rudolph do?

★ *Includes a visit from Santa!* ★

TESTIMONIALS

- "We all loved it...the "Aussie" interpretation was wonderful." - Brighton Grammar School, VIC*
- "The show was wonderful. The children were engaged in the presentation and were very keen to be involved." - St Monica's PS, Moonee Ponds, VIC*
- "Fantastic show! Wonderful performers who really engaged with audience. Christmas spirit abounds - great costuming and characters. After-show question time was also good - encouraging thinking about how a show is actually presented." - Clenton Park PS, NSW*

KEY THEMES

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

CURRICULUM AREAS

Science; Critical & Creative Thinking; Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 6





**JUMP ON OUR WEBSITE OR GIVE US A CALL ON
1300 308 311 TO CHECK DATES OR GET A QUOTE**



**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN
BOOK MORE THAN ONE
SHOW ON THE SAME
DAY?
ASK US HOW**



**WE PROVIDE EXPERIENCES
THAT ARE:**

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

WHAT'S PROVIDED BY US?

- 1** **TEACHER RESOURCE PACKS TO SUPPORT OUR VISIT AND TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION AFTER WE'VE LEFT**
- 2** **SHOW FLYERS AND PERMISSION LETTER TEMPLATES**
- 3** **ALL STAGING, SOUND AND LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS**
- 4** **AN AMAZING SHOW!**
- 5** **STRUCTURED POST-PERFORMANCE Q&A WITH THE STUDENTS**
"Question time was excellent and reengaged the children in the messages of the performance." - *The Murri School, Acacia Ridge, QLD*



WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

- A performance space 5m by 5m, plus enough room for the students to sit on the floor and watch the show
- Access to the performance space one hour before and one hour after the show
- One power point

That's it!