

**SPECIALISTS
IN ADAPTING
CHILDREN'S BOOKS
FOR PERFORMANCES
IN SCHOOLS**

Meerkat
Productions



IN-SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GUIDE 2019/20

MEERKATPRODUCTIONS.COM.AU

HELLO!

★ WE'RE MEERKAT PRODUCTIONS ★

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.



Our role (and our passion) is to empower children by entertaining them with theatre. We focus on providing programs that celebrate literacy and also student wellbeing. Our shows enable students and teachers to engage in conversations and our free teacher resources enable them to handle the discussion effectively.

Meerkat Productions specialise in adapting children's books for performances in schools; 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 across the east coast, ACT, SA and TAS. Just this year we've performed as far north as Cairns, in remote regional areas such as Bourke and Marra Creek, and throughout regional VIC, NSW, QLD and TAS.

ANOTHER RECORD YEAR FOR OUR TERM 3 BOOK WEEK ADAPTATIONS

Once again, we've just had the biggest tour we've ever had. This year our teams travelled as far north as Cairns, through Nhill to Adelaide, over to Tasmania, the length of Gippsland and through northern Victoria and regional NSW up to the Back of Bourke.

Spaces are becoming increasingly limited so if you're interested in a Book Week adaptation in 2020 get in touch now to avoid disappointment.

ADAPTATION OF ROOM ON OUR ROCK AVAILABLE FOR TERM 2 2020

As the adaptation has been so successful during Term 3 we're extending the season into 2020. This program is all about sharing and empathy and could be a great way to support your Refugee Week activities.

We have an exclusive licence to perform an adaptation of the book so the only place you can see this show is in your own school! Check out page 9 for more details.



WHAT'S NEW FOR 2018/19?

EXPERIENCE

- By booking a Meerkat Productions performance you're supporting an Australian owned and operated small business
- Owners, Amanda and Carl, are hands on in the business and have over 20 years' experience of teaching and in the arts industry
- Our performers are all young, professionally trained performers; often also trained teachers

"The actors kept the students on the edge of their seats." – Emmanuel College, Ballina NSW

"Gemma and Joel were fantastic." – St Stephens College, Coomera QLD



- Not only that, we bring you some of the best practitioners in Australian Theatre 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
- We support Australian authors by paying royalties for every child that attends a performance of one of our adaptations

COMPLIANCE

- As members of industry body Live Performance Australia, Meerkat Productions are held to high standards of performance and management of the company
- We have a Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct signed by all employees
- All staff have a current WWCC (or equivalent)

WHY CHOOSE US?

SIMPLE PROCESSES

- We have a really simple booking process! We'll send you a quote which you can accept online

- There's nothing to pay until after the performance

- We bring everything we need with us

"The presenters were very professional and organised. The kids loved it! So fun! 10/10" – Summerland Christian College, Goonellabah NSW

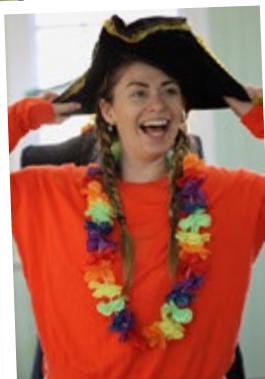


GREAT PROGRAMS

Our shows use music and puppetry to bring a range of presentation styles and enhance student engagement.

"I liked the use of the entire space – not just the stage. The students were so engaged." – Our Lady Queen of the Peace, Greystanes NSW

We 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 raised in the show and support **Inquiry Learning**



by discussing how we made the set, puppets, music, etc. We also encourage audience participation and active engagement in all our performances.

"Was great how it was run by you and not just the kids asking random questions. (10/10)" – Bargara State School, Bargara QLD



WHY CHOOSE US?



BOOK WEEK: CHILDRENS BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA SHORTLISTED BOOK ADAPTATIONS

ABOUT THE SHOW

Each year, in celebration of Book Week and Literacy Week, we adapt two books shortlisted by the Children's Book Council of Australia for the Book of The Year Awards.

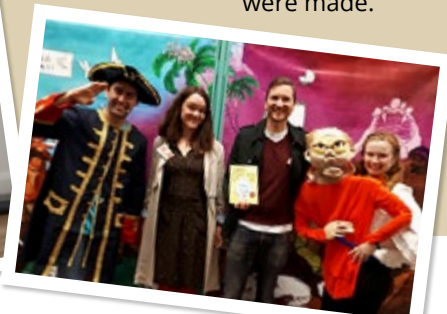
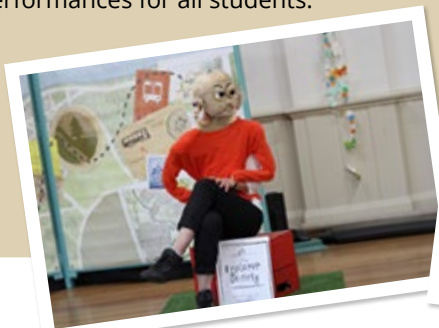
We choose one book from the Picture Book category & one book from the Younger Readers Chapter Book category and create two 40-minute musical productions including original songs and puppetry.

As far as we're aware, we're the only company adapting both a picture book and a younger readers chapter book each year. Therefore, ensuring age appropriate performances for all students.

We also support Australian authors by paying royalties for every child that attends a performance of one of our adaptations.

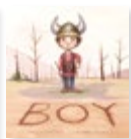
The chosen books are announced in May; however, the tour starts to sell out the previous September so make sure you book early to avoid disappointment!

Includes a teacher resource pack and a targeted, structured question time with the performers which explores the themes of the books and performances and also supports Inquiry learning as we discuss how the shows were produced and how the puppets and props were made.



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:

Grades 4 to 7

TESTIMONIALS FROM ROOM ON OUR ROCK

"Probably the best show we have had visit our school."

- Middleton PS, Parkes NSW

"Love the natural involvement of the children in the production."

- Canberra Grammar ELC, Red Hill ACT

"Interesting to kids of all ages." - Emmanuel College, Ballina NSW

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE PEACOCK DETECTIVES

"Loved the characters and themes explored." - Summerland Christian College, Goonellabah NSW

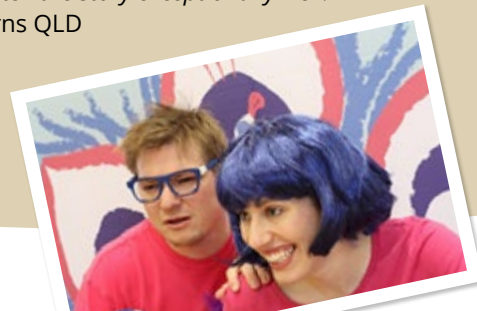
"Excellent (10/10)" - Dayboro State School, Dayboro QLD

"Beautifully presented. Drama was wonderfully acted."

- St Peter's, Clayton VIC

"You were able to tell the story exceptionally well."

- St Joseph's, Cairns QLD



AVAILABLE
TERMS 1 & 2

FAIRY TALES & PUPPETRY: GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES

ABOUT THE SHOW

Good Things Come In Threes supports delivery of the **English, Critical & Creative Thinking** and **Arts** curriculum.

Three of our favourite fairy tales – The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Goldilocks & The Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs – are performed using three different styles of puppetry – Hand Puppetry, Marionettes and Shadow 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 students are able to have a go at operating them.

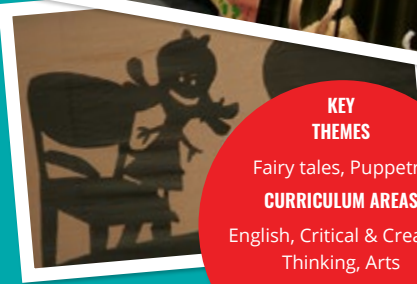
TESTIMONIALS

"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

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 3

SHARING, EMPATHY & REFUGEES: ADAPTATION OF ROOM ON OUR ROCK BY KATE & JOL TEMPLE

AVAILABLE
TERM 2



ABOUT THE SHOW

We are delighted to present an adaptation of Room On Our Rock, written by Kate & Jol Temple and illustrated by Terri Rose Baynton.

Read conventionally, it tells the tale of a group of seals who fear the approach of a strange pair of seals, one a child, whose rock is being overwhelmed by the sea. However, there is more to this book than a simple one-way reading can reveal. If you start reading at the back of the book and read all the pages in reverse order, it becomes an uplifting

tale of acceptance, encouragement and hope.

Kate & Jol Temple, along with the talented NZ artist Terri Rose-Baynton and publisher Scholastic, are donating \$1 from the sale of each book towards Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation's Refugee Action Support. It's a program that helps refugee students get the literacy support they need to meet the challenges of the classroom.



TESTIMONIALS

"Good explanation of empathy, with relevant examples." - St James PS, Yamba NSW

"Loved it. Very entertaining and captured the message within the book."

– St Stephens College, Coomera QLD

"The students were able to gain the emotions of the story through your interpretation with believable characters." – Binda Public School, Binda NSW

"A great balance between story and audience participation." – King's Baptist Grammar School, Wynn Vale SA



KEY THEMES

Empathy, sharing,
immigration

CURRICULUM AREAS

Literacy, Personal & Social Capability,
Ethical Capability, Critical & Creative
Thinking, Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 6



RESILIENCE & UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS: ADAPTATION OF MR HUFF BY ANNA WALKER

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.

AVAILABLE
TERMS
1, 2 & 4



OUR MOST
POPULAR SHOW
FOR ALL AGES



TESTIMONIALS

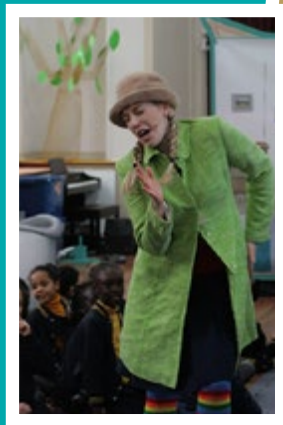
"Wonderful that children are exposed to such relevant mental health issues through quality drama."

– 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

Resilience, Anxiety in children, Emotional Intelligence, dealing with a bad day

CURRICULUM AREAS

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

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 6

ANTI-BULLYING: BULLY BULL RING

AVAILABLE
TERM 2

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 a teacher resource pack and a targeted question time incorporating the ideas of programs such as **"You Can Do It"** & **"Better Buddies"**.

Bellamy the young Bison Bull loves her enclosure at the zoo, but not the other Bison Bulls who bully her. Being the focus of the "Bully Bull-Ring" is tough for a young Bison when none of the adult herd seem to notice. Now name-calling, being left out & getting roughed up have become part of everyday life. How much can one Bison bear??

Join Bellamy as she escapes her enclosure & travels the zoo learning the animal kingdom's solutions to bullying. Will she "Rise Above It" like a giraffe or follow the crocodile's advice and "Not make snap decisions"? Which way works best? Or is it a bit of all of them put together?



PERSONAL & SOCIAL CAPABILITY

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

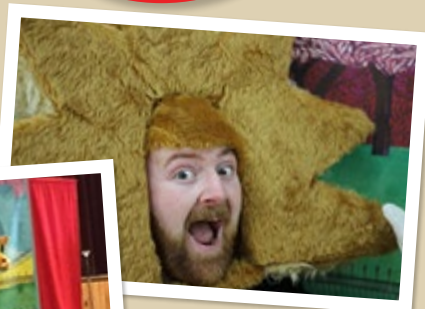
Bullying, Problem Solving,
Self-Image

CURRICULUM AREAS

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

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 6



CHRISTMAS SHOW RUDOLPH'S RECRUITS

AVAILABLE
TERM 4



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, but he forgot to put the word "reindeer" on the advertisement. 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?

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." - Clemton 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



WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

- A performance space 5m by 3m, plus enough room for the students to sit on the floor and watch the show
- Access to the performance space one hour before and for 45 minutes after the show
- One power point

THAT'S IT!

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





JUMP ON OUR WEBSITE
MEERKATPRODUCTIONS.COM.AU
OR GIVE US A CALL ON 1300 308 311 TO
CHECK DATES OR GET A QUOTE



DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN HAVE DIFFERENT SHOWS
ON THE SAME DAY? ASK US FOR OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

