

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

Meerkat
Productions



IN-SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GUIDE 2020/21

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.

We specialise in adapting children's books for performances in schools, kindergartens & libraries, 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, Regional NSW & VIC, ACT, SA and TAS. Already for next year we're booked to perform as far north as Cairns, in remote regional areas such as Bourke and Marra Creek, and throughout regional VIC, NSW, QLD, SA and TAS.

IN THIS BROCHURE YOU WILL FIND A SNIPPET OF INFORMATION ABOUT EACH SHOW WE OFFER.
ON OUR WEBSITE YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUR TOUR SCHEDULE & PRICING.

WE HAVE EXPANDED OUR TEAMS FOR OUR TERM 3 TOUR OF OUR BOOK WEEK ADAPTATIONS

We have added a fourth team of performers to our Term 3 touring schedule for 2021 which means we now have more availability in NSW, ACT & QLD.

Already over 40% of the 2021 tour has been booked and spaces are becoming increasingly limited; so, if you're interested in a Book Week adaptation in 2021 get in touch now to avoid disappointment.

YOU CAN NOW BOOK AN ONLINE VERSION OF OUR BOOK WEEK ADAPTATIONS

One of the best outcomes of this year has been the need to innovate. This year, for the first time, we have created an online version of our Book Week adaptations. You can find out more about how it works on the Book Week page of this brochure and on our website.details.



WHAT'S NEW FOR 2020/21?

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

"Debbie and Craig were excellent to deal with." – Richard Johnson Anglican School, Sydney



- Not only that, we bring you some of the best practitioners in Australian Theatre. 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

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

- 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)
- Ask us for a copy of our Covid Safe Plan

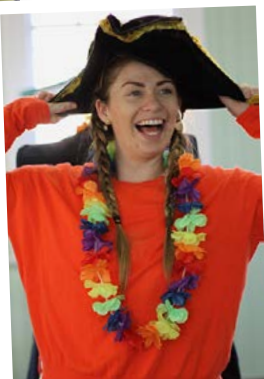


WHY CHOOSE US?

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?



CHILDRENS BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA SHORTLISTED BOOK ADAPTATIONS ABOUT THE SHOW

Each year, in celebration of Book 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 from the previous Book Week are announced in May; however, with most schools rebooking year after year the tour starts to sell out 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 3/4 to 7

RECENT TESTIMONIALS

"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

"Loved it. Very entertaining and captured the message within the book." - St Stephens College, Coomera QLD

"It conveys valuable messages to students..." - Amity College, Prestons Primary School, Sydney

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

"Beautifully presented. Drama was wonderfully acted." - St Peter's, Clayton VIC

"It was funny, engaging, dramatic, great props, clever!" - Harrison School, Harrison ACT

"Relevant to our students." - Harris Fields, Woodridge QLD



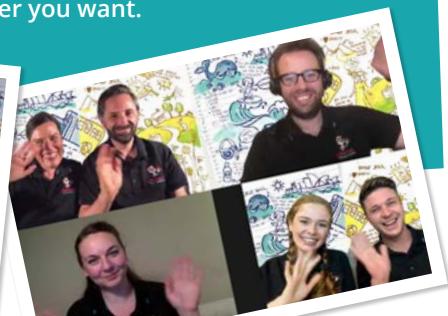
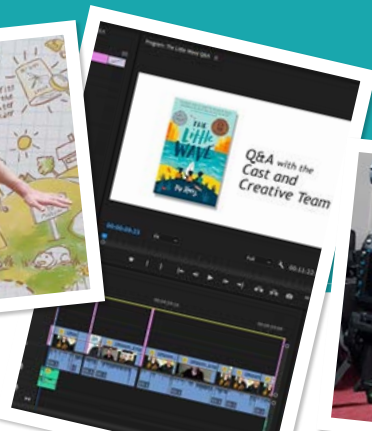
ONLINE OPTION

If it's not possible to host a live performance, we have another option for you. Each year we prepare a professional recording of both adaptations. This is a great option if we're already booked out in your area, or you're a small school or in a remote area we don't normally travel to. The pricing is based on a fixed fee per group, rather than a cost per student, so it will work out cheaper for you; making it a great last minute or lower cost option.

HOW IT WORKS

We'll make the professional recording available for the whole of Book Week so you can watch it whenever, and however often, you like during that week. If you'd prefer access in a different week, let us know and we can arrange it. The link is sharable with individual classes or students so you can watch the show in the way that works best for you.

A pre-recorded Q&A will be attached to each performance, along with a Teacher Resource Pack. The Q&A includes questions with the performers and the creative team and we'll supply it as a separate link so you can refer to it whenever you want.



FAIRY TALES & PUPPETRY: GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES

AVAILABLE
TERMS 1 & 2



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



KEY THEMES

Fairy tales, Puppetry

CURRICULUM AREAS

English, Critical & Creative
Thinking, Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Kinder to Grade 3

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

ABOUT THE SHOW

Our adaptation of Anna Walker's award-winning book is written for grades Prep – 6 and is designed to help children build both healthy relationships to their own emotions and increase their emotional intelligence. Through a blend of puppetry, music and dance, our performers will have the students so engaged they won't realise they're learning.

Our adaptation of Mr Huff supports delivery of the Self Awareness element of the Personal & Social Capability curriculum by creating a language students can use to recognise and articulate their emotions.

By following Bill's journey students begin to understand what is causing his emotions and how he can adapt his behaviour to manage them more effectively. In particular, we explore feelings of being fed up, overwhelmed, angry and anxious.

Find out more on our website.

AVAILABLE
TERMS
1 & 2



OUR
MOST
POPULAR
SHOW
FOR ALL AGES

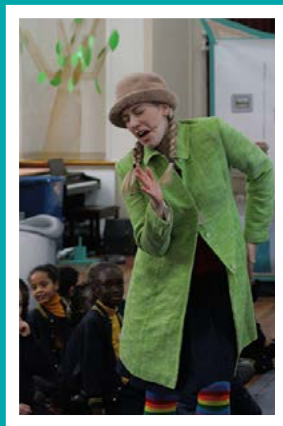


TESTIMONIALS

"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
TERMS
1 & 2

ABOUT THE SHOW

Bully Bull Ring is written for students in Prep to Grade 6 and is designed to impart onto the students the same wisdom the animals give to Bellamy. Through a mixture of song, dance and puppetry, each of the animals teaches Bellamy how to use her emotional intelligence and to stand up for herself. Key topics we focus on include building respect, resilience, confidence and more, whilst always remaining upbeat and friendly.

Along the way we meet a rock-star lion who fancies himself as a stand-up comedian! He encourages Bellamy to try to get along with people; an army General crocodile who advises Bellamy not to make snap decisions; a giraffe who teaches Bellamy to Rise Above It when faced with nasty comments; a Polar Bear who encourages Bellamy to find a “buddy” who will look after her and help her out when things don’t go to plan; an elephant who shows Bellamy how to find her confidence and an Orangutan who shows us that having one single strategy won’t work, you need to apply different strategies to different situations and links them to the five keys of Program Achieve.

Find out more on our website.



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



IN-SCHOOL PERFORMANCES AVAILABLE 2020/21

CHRISTMAS SHOW RUDOLPH'S RECRUITS

AVAILABLE
TERM 4



ABOUT THE SHOW

Oh No! Santa's reindeer are sick with the flu and they can't deliver presents to Australia! It's up to Rudolph to find some new sleigh pullers so he heads to Australia to find some native animals to help him with this task, but will the nasty dingo derail his plan?

Our truly original Aussie Christmas tale is perfect for ages 4-12. It is designed to teach students all about the wonderful native flora and fauna that live on our Great Southern Land. Join Rudolph as he meets all manner of Australian animals, from Kangaroos to Koalas, Emus to Kookaburras.

Our performers each take on multiple roles, through costume changes and puppeteering, and this means the students can get up close and personal with tons of Aussie Critters, as we dance up and down the aisles; keeping students engaged from the moment they enter the space. We'll have the students laughing and dancing along with us from start to finish.

Our award-winning song writing team have adapted some old classics for you to sing along to and written some new gems for the students to enjoy, as we explore key themes of teamwork, problem solving, and overcoming stereotypes through song!



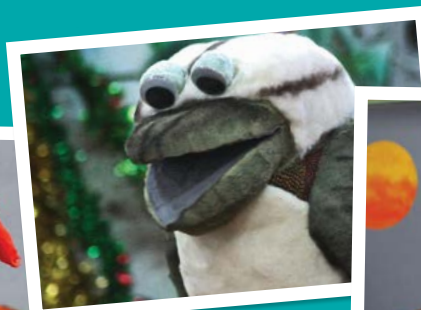


TESTIMONIALS

"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

