

Meerkat
Productions



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

**IN-SCHOOL WELLBEING AND
LITERACY PROGRAMS 2022**

MEERKATPRODUCTIONS.COM.AU

HELLO!

★ WE'RE MEERKAT PRODUCTIONS ★

Our role (and our passion) is to empower children by entertaining them with theatre. We focus on providing programs that support student wellbeing and literacy by celebrating Australian stories.

Our shows provide students with applicable strategies and our free teacher resources enable post show exploration in the classroom

Seen by over 45,000 students each year
Over 300 performances a year nationwide

HOW TEACHERS RATED US THIS YEAR

Student engagement 9.1 / 10

Content 9.1 / 10

Quality of performance 9.4 / 10



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.

STUDENT WELLBEING

We have programs which support delivery of the "Wellbeing Culture" and "Increased Mental Health Literacy" objectives in the National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Our programs are prevention focused and help students to develop tools so they can cope and have strategies to use when they are struggling.

We have shows which discuss Mindfulness, Resilience, Anxiety, Bravery, Courage & realising that things may not be as bad as they seem.

LITERACY

Aside from our retelling of classic fairy tales, we specialise in adapting Australian children's books for performances in schools, kindergartens & libraries.

Check out our options for your Book Week celebrations.



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



WELLBEING

In October 2021, the Australian Government released the National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and said:

"The foundations for lifelong mental health and wellbeing should be built during childhood. Within the education sector, supporting children's mental health and wellbeing needs to be central to the frameworks and standards on which the education and early childhood systems are built."

Our adaptations focus on specific areas of mental wellbeing and give students tools and strategies they can implement.

Our Teacher Resource packs also provide activities to explore the themes more deeply.



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

Nurture resilience and dispel 'the huffs'!
Your students will develop positive coping tools and practical wellbeing strategies through our highly engaging and entertaining adaptation of Anna Walker's award-winning book.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Our adaptation of Anna Walker's award-winning book Mr Huff supports the development of a **Wellbeing Culture** in the school and delivery of the **Self Awareness & Self Management** elements of the **Personal & Social Capability** curriculum by creating a language students can use to recognise and articulate their emotions.

AVAILABLE
TERMS
1 & 2
IN-SCHOOL &
ONLINE



OUR
MOST
POPULAR
SHOW
FOR ALL AGES



FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



TESTIMONIALS

"Such an engaging and professional performance to teach the children about managing difficult emotions!!"

- Ivanhoe Primary School, VIC

"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

PERSONAL & SOCIAL CAPABILITY • WELLBEING

BRAVERY & COURAGE: ADAPTATION OF YOUR BIRTHDAY WAS THE BEST! BY MAGGIE HUTCHINGS & FELICITA SALA

ABOUT THE SHOW

Let's make school worth smiling about!

Having courage and being brave will help your students to persevere against challenges. Students will love developing strategies to rise to scary challenges and learn easy steps to help with being brave.

Through our funny, interactive and highly engaging adaptation of Maggie Hutchings' CBCA Honours picture book our adorable cockroach will grow in courage, reflecting real life challenges that your students face.

Our adaptation of Your Birthday Was The BEST! supports the development of a Wellbeing Culture in the school and delivery of the Self Awareness & Self Management elements of the Personal & Social Capability curriculum by demonstrating and applying positive behaviours and developing skills and confidence to achieve goals.

AVAILABLE
TERMS
1 & 2
IN-SCHOOL &
ONLINE



FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

PERSONAL & SOCIAL CAPABILITY • WELLBEING

TESTIMONIALS

"Theme of bravery. It reflects our school's disposition of 'embracing challenge'."

– Thangool State School, QLD

"Made a connection to real problems that children are dealing with."

– Holy Cross School, Trinity Park QLD

"Great links to theme of being brave and a good amount of silliness for the kids to enjoy!"

– Dayboro State School, QLD

"I loved how the final song really brought home the theme of the performance... I also loved the attention to detail and how all parts of the performance were inspired by the illustrations."

– Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan QLD

KEY THEMES

Bravery, Rising to challenges,
Overcoming fears, Finding
the best in situations, Resilience,
Developing personal strengths

CURRICULUM AREAS

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

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 6



ANXIETY & DEPRESSION: ADAPTATION OF ASTER'S GOOD, RIGHT THINGS BY KATE GORDON

AVAILABLE
TERMS
1 & 2
ONLINE ONLY



ABOUT THE SHOW

Our adaptation of Kate Gordon's award-winning chapter book *Aster's Good, Right Things* supports the Self Awareness & Self Management elements of the **Personal & Social Capability** curriculum by creating a language students can use to recognise and articulate their emotions. Kate Gordon's latest book is a beautiful #OwnVoices story about anxiety and depression, told through the eyes of Aster, who has anxiety, and Xavier, who struggles with anxiety and depression. A beautiful friendship forms between Aster and Xavier through his pet rabbit.

FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



TESTIMONIALS

"... meaningful and important."

- St Joseph's, Parramatta Park QLD

"Discussing depression and other mental health issues is extremely important for students this age... raised important issues in a respectful manner."

- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Darra QLD

"Characterisation was great, direction spot on, energy of performing was fabulous. Great emotions."

- Guardian Angels, Wynnum QLD



KEY THEMES

Anxiety & Depression in children, Emotional Intelligence

CURRICULUM AREAS

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

SUITABLE FOR

Grade 3/4 - 6

LITERACY

We specialise in adapting and bringing to life children's literature for live performances in schools, libraries and kindergartens.

We have a Puppetry show perfect for introducing young students to Fairy Tales.

The company has been adapting books for Book Week since 2000 which are seen by over 35,000 students across Australia each year.



FAIRY TALES & PUPPETRY: GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES

AVAILABLE
TERMS 1 & 2
IN-SCHOOL
ONLY



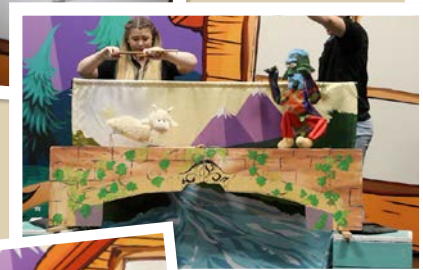
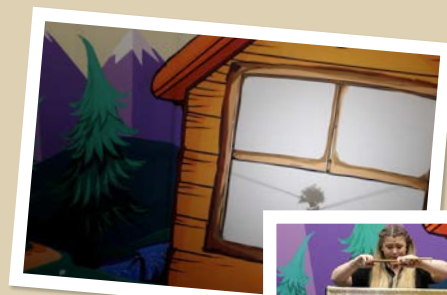
ABOUT THE SHOW

Good Things Come In Threes supports delivery of the English curriculum by providing an opportunity to develop students' listening and viewing skills as well as supporting the Creating Literature element of the curriculum by providing examples of how we can use song, sound, rhythm and dialogue in storytelling.

The show is designed to tell the three fairy tales in a straightforward and linear fashion, ensuring students from Foundation to Grade 3 are all able to comprehend it.

We use Marionettes, Shadow Puppetry and Hand Puppetry to tell the fairy tale stories of The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Goldilocks & The Three Bears and The Three Little Pigs.

After each story, the performers will spend time informing the students about how our puppets are designed and built and give them a chance to show off what they've learnt.



TESTIMONIALS

"Visually engaging for students, excellent puppets, catchy songs. I enjoyed the costumes, music and puppets, an entertaining performance."

- Glenroy West Primary School, VIC

"Very relevant to our English units. Super engaging."

- Ironside State School, St Lucia QLD

"It was engaging and funny. The presenters showed students how the puppets worked and how they could make them at home..."

- Pallara State School, QLD

"The puppets looked spectacular, loved the explanation at the end on how they were constructed."

- Elsternwick PS, VIC

"It was very entertaining for the children and us teachers enjoyed it as well."

- Ironside State School, St Lucia QLD

KEY THEMES

Fairy tales, Puppetry

CURRICULUM AREAS

English, Critical & Creative
Thinking, Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Kinder to Grade 3



FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



CHILDRENS BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA SHORTLISTED BOOK ADAPTATIONS

ALREADY OVER 70% OF THE 2022 TOUR HAS BEEN BOOKED AND SPACES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY LIMITED; SO, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A BOOK WEEK ADAPTATION IN 2022 GET IN TOUCH NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

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.

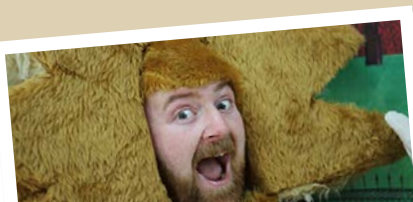
We choose one book from the Picture Book category & one book from the Younger Readers Chapter Book category and create two 40-minute musical productions including original songs and puppetry.

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

Includes a teacher resource pack and a targeted, structured question time with the with performers. The Q&A which explores the themes of the books and performances and also supports Inquiry learning; discussing how the shows were produced and how the puppets and props were made.

FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



OUR RECENT ADAPTATIONS



YOUNGER READERS NOVEL



RECENT PICTURE BOOK TESTIMONIALS

"I loved how the final song really brought home the theme of the performance... I also loved the attention to detail and how all parts of the performance were inspired by the illustrations."

- Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan QLD

"I thought it was performed well and was entertaining. The kids were engaged at all times."

- St Mary's, North Rockhampton QLD

"Interesting to kids of all ages."

- Emmanuel College, Ballina NSW

RECENT YOUNGER READERS TESTIMONIALS

"Very creative and well performed. Students' enjoyed the different styles within the performance, example, the songs."

- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart PS, Darra QLD

"It was very close to the story of the book."

- BayView State School, Thornlands QLD

"Loved the characters and themes explored."

- Summerland Christian College, Goonellabah NSW



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.

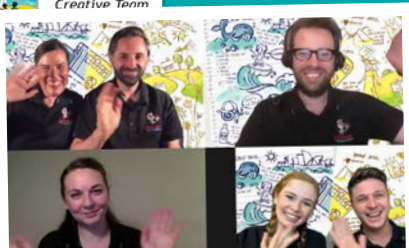
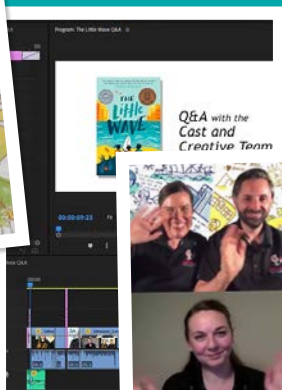
HOW IT WORKS

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.

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

– St Joseph's, Cairns QLD



CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS SHOW RUDOLPH'S RECRUITS

AVAILABLE
TERM 4
IN-SCHOOL
ONLY

INCLUDES A VISIT
FROM SANTA!



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



FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



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

"Nina and Joel were fantastic. They were so friendly, put on an amazing show. I love that they always take charge of seating the children - the teachers appreciate that!"

– Richard Johnson Anglican School, Sydney

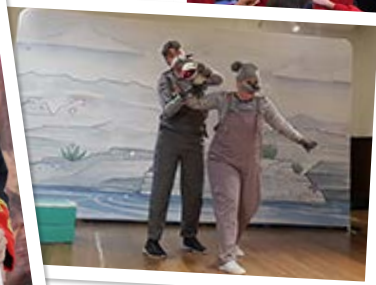


- Not only that, we bring you some of the best practitioners in Australian Theatre. All of our creative team work in the professional theatre industry, including the musicals The Sound of Music, Aladdin and The Lion King, at Melbourne Theatre Company and International Festivals

"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 peak industry body Live Performance Australia, we 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)
- We have a Covid Safe Plan and all staff are fully vaccinated



SIMPLE BOOKING PROCESS

- 1 **PICK YOUR SHOW**
- 2 **SELECT YOUR PREFERRED DATES**
- 3 **SUBMIT ENQUIRY**
- 4 **ACCEPT OUR QUOTE**
- 5 **GET EXCITED!**



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



**NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL
AFTER THE PERFORMANCE!**



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** **ALL STAGING, SOUND AND LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS**
- 3** **AN AMAZING SHOW!**
- 4** **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

