

Meerkat
Productions



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

**IN-SCHOOL WELLBEING AND
LITERACY PROGRAMS 2023 & 2024**

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 pre and post show exploration in the classroom.



Seen by over 55,000 students each year
Over 385 performances a year nationwide

HOW TEACHERS RATED US THIS YEAR

Student engagement 9.3 / 10

Content 9.4 / 10

Quality of performance 9.5 / 10

**IN THIS BROCHURE YOU WILL FIND
A SNIPPET OF INFORMATION ABOUT
EACH SHOW WE OFFER. CLICK
WHERE YOU SEE THIS SYMBOL TO
JUMP TO OUR WEBSITE.**



We create vibrant productions which deliver on specific curriculum areas and prompt discussion and debate with students.

We are Australian owned and operated by qualified teachers. We perform 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.

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.

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, Courage & learning that a bad day doesn't last forever.

Where possible we use Australian children's books as stimulus for our wellbeing programs; meaning you get cross curricular benefits from our programs.



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.

FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



AVAILABLE
TERMS
1, 2 & 4
IN-SCHOOL &
ONLINE



SINCE 2016:
OVER 300
PERFORMANCES
TO OVER 40,000
STUDENTS

TESTIMONIALS

"I think they witnessed some wonderful examples of strategies for coping with feeling over stimulated and overwhelmed. One of the best shows we have had at our school."

– St Joseph's PS, Gloucester, NSW

"Students were able to see how emotions look on others. Students were able to relate to the emotions shown and how we can deal with these feelings. ...this is a nice link to our well-being curriculum... Good content and Year level appropriate. Also, the unpacking of the story in question time was good. Discussed some of the metaphors in the story, talked about naming feelings as well as building the story."

– Carey Baptist Grammar School, Kew, VIC

"Learning to talk about their feelings, acknowledge them and overcome them. Thanks for the energy and great message. The quality was top notch and our students were so engaged."

– Hawthorn West PS, VIC



TEACHERS RATED LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCES

Student engagement 9.3/10

Content of the show 9.4/10

Quality of the performance 9.4/10

Value of the Q&A 9/10



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 Octopus 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

TESTIMONIALS

"The performance was fantastic. Very well thought out and very engaging... I loved the q&a section. It not only gave the students a chance to use their own voice but to cement the content. I was a Life Education teacher for many years and have done much research in this area. Loved your work. :)"

– Benalla p-12 College, VIC

"Students were given strategies on how to deal with bullying in an engaging way. Students were laughing at the bullying at the beginning but by the end of the show they were opposed to Bellamy being bullied by her brother. This shows that the students were becoming aware that by not standing up for Bellamy, they were a part of the bullying. The recap of the strategies learnt throughout the performance was great."

– Blackwell PS, St Clair, NSW

"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



TEACHERS RATED LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCES

Student engagement 9/10

Content of the show 9.1/10

Quality of the performance 9.3/10

Value of the Q&A 8.6/10

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



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 storytelling through Fairy Tales.

The company has been adapting books for Book Week since 2000 which are seen by over 41,000 students across Australia each year.

"Great story and performance that relates to Health and English. Looking forward to exploring this text and resource pack over the next couple of weeks. Talking about characters fitted in perfectly with our English units we are currently exploring."

– Carlingford PS, NSW



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.

TEACHERS RATED LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCES

Student engagement 9.8/10

Content of the show 9.8/10

Quality of the performance 9.9/10



TESTIMONIALS

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

- Glenroy West Primary School, VIC

"So much fun, children very engaged, definitely recommend to other early years educators. Direct curriculum links - Responding to texts and identifying features of texts. Retelling events forms texts, retelling through performance and innovating through play. Children learning through an age appropriate humorous and playful experience."

- Jindalee State School, Jindalee 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

"This performance sets us up for our Fairytale Literacy unit."

- Wallarano Primary School, Noble Park VIC

KEY THEMES

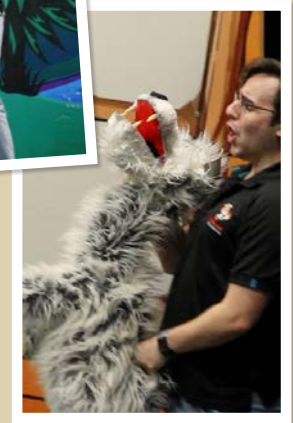
Fairy tales, Puppetry

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 50% OF THE 2024 TOUR HAS BEEN BOOKED AND SPACES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY LIMITED; SO, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A BOOK WEEK PERFORMANCE IN 2024 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 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

PICTURE BOOK



YOUNGER READERS NOVEL



RECENT PICTURE BOOK TESTIMONIALS

"Great Book Week activity. Students were able to compare performance to book and get a deeper understanding of themes."

– St Joseph's PS, Springvale VIC

"All years enjoyed the show and pre performance activities (making masks and reading books). Performers had plenty of energy and interacted well with all year levels."

– Glenden State School, QLD

RECENT YOUNGER READERS TESTIMONIALS

"A number of students asked after the book post performance. They saw how to capture a story in a dramatic way."

– St Vincent's PS, Ashfield NSW

"Really enjoyable and professional show. Loved the way the stage was set out, allowing the audience to be fully immersed. ...the content of the show allowed full understanding of the text to come through."

– St Joseph's Catholic School, Cairns QLD

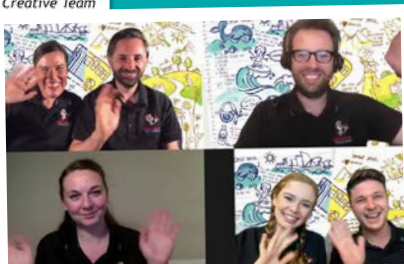
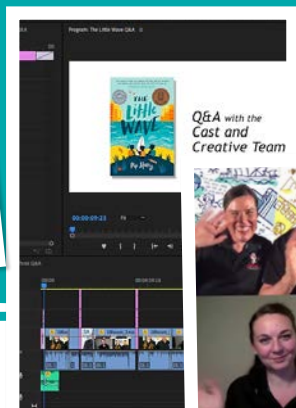


ONLINE OPTION



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.

The professional recording is accessible 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 is attached to each performance, along with a Teacher Resource Pack. The Q&A includes questions about the themes in the story and the creative process and we supply it as a separate link so you can refer to it whenever you want.



"At the moment in writing we are focusing on imaginative writing. It was super beneficial for the students on how to craft ideas and how to be creative."

– Moree PS, NSW



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 set 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; appropriate for ages 4-12, we keep students of all ages 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

"Fun, enjoyable experience - educating them about Australian animals and culture at Christmas time. It was very entertaining. [Students] laughed, sang, joined in and really enjoyed the performance. Teachers did too!"

- All Saints School, Albany Creek QLD

"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

"Students were fully engaged and able to connect with the story. An excellent pantomime which the students absolutely loved."

- St John's CPS, Auburn NSW

FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



KEY THEMES

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

CURRICULUM AREAS

Science, Critical & Creative Thinking, Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 6



TEACHERS RATED LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCES

Student engagement 9.7/10

Content of the show 9.7/10

Quality of the performance 9.9/10

Value of the Q&A 9.4/10



EXPERIENCE

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

"The performers were punctual, very polite, wonderfully talented, super engaging and responsive to students."

- Trinity Catholic School, Richmond VIC



- 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 major musicals such as The Sound of Music, Aladdin and The Lion King and at Melbourne Theatre Company and International Festivals.

"The performers were obviously used to working with children - their enthusiasm and knowledge how to engage with children was great. For example, the way they integrated a little movement break before the Q&A was good teaching. They also had multiple ways for the audience to engage with the performance..."

- Nowra Anglican College, 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)
- Risk Assessment available



SIMPLE BOOKING PROCESS

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



CURRICULUM ALIGNED 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 wide by 3m deep, 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 WITH PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES 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

