

Melbourne/Sydney/Brisbane based Music Theatre performers for In-School Theatre tours

Project brief

A few positions have come available for people who are passionate about theatre for young people to join our existing team of ten performers. This is a full-time role on a Run of Play contract.

We are casting for our July to September tours into Primary Schools, Kindergartens and libraries (see our [website](#) for further info about our work).

There are several tour options available. Key dates are on page 2 of this brief.

Job payment

Paid - The tour and rehearsals are paid at Live Performance Award rates plus overtime, relevant travel allowances, annual leave and Super. This equates to approx. \$1,600 per week before tax, plus Super.

We provide a company vehicle and, when you are away from home, accommodation is arranged and paid for by us.

What we're looking for

We are looking for Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane based performers - see full details of the skills and experience we're looking for on page 3.

We welcome applications from anywhere in Australia, however you must be based in the tour's home city for the duration of the tour.

By the start of the tour (4th August), you must:

- be over 21 and
- hold a full driver's license (no L or P plates) otherwise we can't insure you on the vehicle and therefore can't cast you.
- hold a current employment Working With Children Check, or equivalent. Without this you can't work in schools and therefore we can't cast you.

A note on casting:

The creative team is committed to diversity and inclusion. We strongly encourage submissions from actors from First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, neurodiverse actors, with disability and/or who identify as LGBTQIA+.

If you have any questions about the production or audition process, or have access requirements you'd like to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact us at admin@meerkatproductions.com.au

The work

Rehearsals are full time during the day for two weeks, Mon to Fri, 9am to 6pm.

Most of the tour will be away from home so you must be comfortable with several weeks of travelling.

You will learn two shows, both of which are plays with songs lasting 40-45 minutes plus a structured and scripted Question & Answer session with the students. (We will teach you how to lead the Q&A.)

More details about the shows are on page 3 of this brief.

Audition / Rehearsal / Production dates

Auditions:

Deadline for initial application: Friday 14th March

Auditions will be held in person:

- **Melbourne on Tuesday 18th March**
- **Sydney on Thursday 20th March**
- **Brisbane on Friday 21st March**

Please send an application with your Headshot & Resume by completing this form:

<https://forms.gle/8fkFWQykQKtmsgKr9>

Suitable candidates will then be invited to an audition. We will send you a link to a short monologue and two short tracks for you to prepare. You may also be invited to a one-hour group audition on the same day where we will explore characters and your creativity.

From those auditions we will create a shortlist. Those shortlisted will be invited to an interview via Zoom.

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals for all tours will be held in Melbourne from **Monday 21st July to Friday 1st August**.

Please note, if you are required to relocate to Melbourne for the rehearsal period travel and accommodation will be paid for by us.

Tour dates:

- **Brisbane tour: Saturday 2nd August to Saturday 13th September (6 weeks)**
- **Melbourne Tour 1: Monday 4th August to Friday 5th September (5 weeks)**
- **Melbourne Tour 2: Monday 4th August to Saturday 13th September (6 weeks)**
- **Sydney Tour 1: Saturday 2nd August to Saturday 13th September (6 weeks)**
- **Sydney Tour 2: Saturday 2nd August to Saturday 6th September (5 weeks)**

Please note, all tours have the possible extension to Friday 19th September

Project details:

You will learn two shows, which are adaptations of children's books shortlisted by the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) for the Book of The Year Awards in celebration of Book Week.

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.

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.

Both shows are plays with songs lasting 40-45 minutes plus a structured and scripted Q&A with the students. Scripts and songs will be supplied about three weeks before rehearsals commence.

Performer requirements:

You must be 21 or over at the start of the tour.

The role requires a performer with the ability to play with voice and physicality to portray numerous characters in the same show and who has a good instinct for comedy. All characters are varied so capability for clearly drawn differences in physicality and voice or accent is critical.

We require a confident singer; the role would suit either a trained musical theatre performer or an actor who can sing. Also, ability to follow basic choreography / movement.

We use puppetry in our shows so experience in puppetry or dance would be an advantage; but don't worry, we have an amazing puppetry teacher!

It is also advantageous if you have a genuine interest in working with children, e.g. performing, teaching, etc. and experience of working in school environments.

You will be required to drive a large car (e.g. (Kia Carnival) and bump in and out of schools, therefore you need to be physically capable.

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- hold a current employment Working With Children Check, or equivalent. Without this you can't work in schools and therefore we can't cast you.

Please note, if you are successful there is the opportunity for work in future years. We have many actors who stay with us for multiple tours.