

CANBERRA
YOUTH THEATRE

WORKSHOPS BY DESIGN

TEACHER INFORMATION PACK





PRIMARY WORKSHOPS

Creating Characters
Creative Play and Storytelling
Devising and Playbuilding
Improvisation
Introduction to Drama
Interpreting and Performing Texts
Voice and Movement

FAQs

HOW TO BOOK

CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/BYDESIGN

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HEY TEACHERS!

Canberra Youth Theatre proudly presents an enhanced edition of our Workshops By Design program. Crafted in collaboration with educators, these workshops have been redeveloped to offer greater clarity over learning outcomes and explicit curriculum links for each workshop.

Our Workshops By Design bring professional artists into your school for engaging, curriculum-aligned drama workshops. Our artists draw on their professional training and performance experience to support your students' learning, achieve syllabus objectives, and put theory into practice with creativity and confidence.

Your class needs can't fit into a box, so neither do our workshops. Workshops By Design are customisable and flexible to suit any year level, class size or Drama/Arts based learning area.

With five decades of theatrical heritage under our belt, we recognise our duty to evolve in response to the ever-changing needs of our region's students and educators. We are committed to co-creating learning initiatives with educators that enrich the creative lives of both students and teachers.

We invite you to explore this brochure of workshop offerings or propose alternative concepts for workshops that we can customise to suit your distinctive learning environments.

Our belief in the inherent artistry within everyone is at the heart of everything we do. It is through the collaboration of professional artists and dedicated educators that this artistic spirit flourishes.

We can't wait to work with you.



Anna Johnstone
Creative Learning Producer



HOW IT WORKS...

1

CHOOSE A WORKSHOP, OR CREATE ONE WITH US!

We have ready-made workshops that you can choose from, or you can create your own workshop by having a chat with us about what content your students have been craving. We can create workshops to align with particular Australian Curriculum Standard Outcomes.

2

CHOOSE YOUR WORKSHOP HOURS

Every school has a different timetable. You might have a 2 hour class to run a workshop, or you might only have 40 minutes each week over a term. Whatever your schedule, we can make it work. All you have to do is tell us:

1. How long you would like the workshop to run for, and
2. How many sessions you would like the workshop to run for.

3

GIVE US A BIT OF INFO...

Great! You've told us about the workshop you'd like to run. Let's grab a few more details from you...

INCURSION at your school

1. Name and address of school
2. Number of participating students
3. Year level of students
4. Description of space workshop will be held in
5. Preferred session dates and times
6. Any special considerations, access and inclusion needs

EXCURSION at Gorman Arts Centre

1. Name of school
2. Number of participating students
3. Year level of students
4. Preferred session dates and times
5. Any special considerations, access and inclusion needs

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PRIMARY WORKSHOPS

YEARS K - 6





CREATING CHARACTERS

Transforming into different characters is at the heart of drama, it's also the part that's the most fun! This workshop invites students to bring their imagination to life by developing their very own characters, learning how our voices, bodies and gestures tell the story of who we are. Through a range of exciting practical exercises, participants will explore movement, voice, and character development, all while building confidence, working together, and finding their creative voice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Your students will walk away with...

- Critical and creative thinking skills by delving into character development. They will examine how different character elements affect audience perceptions by creating their own characters and considering the impact of their choices.
- Dramatic skills are required to create unique characters using voice, gesture, and personality traits.
- Resilience and adaptability in a room where taking risks are supported and encouraged.

YEAR 2 - 6 CURRICULUM LINKS

ACADRM036
ACADRM028
ACADRM032
ACADRM035
ACADRM031
ACADRM027

CROSS-CURRICULUM AND GENERAL CAPABILITY LINKS

Critical and Creative Thinking (Version 8.4)

Personal and Social Capability (Version 8.4)

Intercultural Understanding (Version 8.4)

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Character analysis
- Voice and movement
- Animal characters
- Gesture
- Character types
- Symbolism through movement and voice



CREATIVE PLAY AND STORYTELLING

Empower your students through story. Building on participants' innate creativity, this workshop uses storytelling as a vehicle to explore elements of drama. Students will engage their body and voice to express their imagination, and collaborate as a group to bring their stories to the stage. This workshop teaches students how to work together to tell stories that communicate their ideas and experiences.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Your students will walk away with...

- Critical and creative thinking by crafting stories that take into account character, theme and narrative structure. They evaluate the impact of their stories by assessing the emotional impact on an audience.
- Collaborative skills in ensemble building by creating a working environment that is built on trust and acceptance.
- Resilience and adaptivity will be developed through play-based exercises that test ideas, require quick choices and follow threads of inquiry.

YEAR 2 - 6 CURRICULUM LINKS

ACADRM037
ACADRM033
ACADRM029
ACADRM027
ACADRM031
ACADRM035

CROSS-CURRICULUM AND GENERAL CAPABILITY LINKS

Critical and Creative
Thinking (Version 8.4)

Personal and Social
Capability (Version 8.4)

Literacy (Version 8.4)

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Playbuilding and devising
- Storytelling through voice and movement
- Symbolism and Narrative
- Narrative structure and progression of events
- Audience perspectives



DEVISING AND PLAYBUILDING

From the spark of imagination to an inspirational performance, this workshop invites students to turn their ideas into reality. Working with a range of improvisational and collaborative techniques, students will use elements of drama to devise and perform their own work. Participants will be encouraged to think outside the box, exploring different performance styles to create an exciting piece of theatre they can call their own.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Your students will walk away with...

- Strategies to implement during a devising process. How to begin and how to develop and rehearse a devised work.
- Confidence to turn ideas into meaningful narratives and generate work collaboratively.
- Tools to create the structure of a story, including narrative elements, pacing, and order of events.
- Critical and creative thinking by considering the audience's perspective and emotional impact.

YEAR 2 - 6 CURRICULUM LINKS

ACADRM037
ACADRM033
ACADRM029
ACADRM027
ACADRM031
ACADRM035

CROSS-CURRICULUM AND GENERAL CAPABILITY LINKS

Critical and Creative Thinking (Version 8.4)

Personal and Social Capability (Version 8.4)

Intercultural Understanding (Version 8.4)

Literacy (Version 8.4)

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Devising strategies
- Using games and tasks for devising and storybuilding
- Concept building and narrative
- Being a good audience member
- Viewpoints and perspectives



IMPROVISATION

Expect the unexpected! This workshop introduces students to principles of drama through improvisation and creative play. Students will engage in fun and fast-paced improvisation games that encourage them to be spontaneous, connect with others, and leap before they look. In the process, they will discover new skills and techniques to express themselves confidently, explore collaboration and think creatively.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Your students will walk away with...

- Dramatic performance skills by engaging in fast and fun improvisational games and activities.
- Resilience and adaptability by learning how to make theatrical offers within the safe and supportive workshop room.
- Transferable skills that can be adapted to other domains, such as narrative writing.

YEAR 2 - 6 CURRICULUM LINKS

ACADRM035
ACADRM027
ACADRM031
ACADRM029
ACADRM033
ACADRM037

CROSS-CURRICULUM AND GENERAL CAPABILITY LINKS

Critical and Creative
Thinking (Version 8.4)

Personal and Social
Capability (Version 8.4)

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Making and accepting offers
- Improvisation techniques
- Following impulses and making comedic decisions
- Working with your partner/s for the benefit of the performance
- Respectful performances and being a good audience member



INTERPERATING AND PERFORMING TEXTS

From page to stage, this workshop gives students the tools to bring words to life. Students will be led in an active approach to engaging with text, forming their own opinions and interpretations, and using it as a stimulus for their own creativity. Working with a range of practical exercises, participants will discover the secrets to decoding the dramatic information in a script and making a story come alive in performance.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Your students will walk away with...

- Experience rehearsing and performing scripts, developing skills in movement and voice to impact the emotional atmosphere in a performance.
- Critical and creative thinking skills through script analysis, considering the meaning of the work, and potential interpretations.
- Skills to decode dramatic information contained within texts through practical exercises.

YEAR 2 - 6 CURRICULUM LINKS

ACADRM028
ACADRM032
ACADRM036
ACADRM037
ACADRM033
ACADRM038

CROSS-CURRICULUM AND GENERAL CAPABILITY LINKS

Critical and Creative Thinking (Version 8.4)

Personal and Social Capability (Version 8.4)

Literacy (Version 8.4)

Intercultural Understanding (Version 8.4)

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Interpretive lenses and perspectives
- Character and plot analysis
- Identifying symbolism through metanarrative
- Translating texts to voice and movement



VOICE AND MOVEMENT

Children should be seen and heard! This workshop dives into the world of theatrical movement and vocalisation. Through tailored exercises, students develop vocal techniques and the use of the diaphragm, experimenting with different sounds that can be harnessed for a variety of theatrical purposes. Physical exercises guide students through the different elements of movement, including pacing, gesture, space, and time. These exercises equip young artists with a toolbox of techniques to step into any character or role.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Your students will walk away with...

- Knowledge of how to warm up the voice and body for performance.
- Understanding of how voice and movement can affect mood and atmosphere.
- Critical and creative thinking skills by reflecting on audience impact and how meaning is transferred to an audience.

YEAR 2 - 6 CURRICULUM LINKS

ACADRM037
ACADRM036
ACADRM032
ACADRM033
ACADRM029
ACADRM028

CROSS-CURRICULUM AND GENERAL CAPABILITY LINKS

Critical and Creative Thinking (Version 8.4)

Personal and Social Capability (Version 8.4)

Literacy (Version 8.4)

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Vocal warm-ups and exercises
- Types of vocalisation for performance
- Experimental play
- Script analysis
- Creating intentional performance atmospheres

FAQs

I CAN'T FIND A WORKSHOP THAT IS RIGHT FOR MY CLASS. CAN YOU CREATE A CUSTOM WORKSHOP TO SUIT MY CLASS NEEDS OR UNIT PLAN?

Yes, we are happy to create custom workshops to suit any unit that you are planning to achieve your desired curriculum goals and learning outcomes. We understand that teachers have limited time to explore every desired content area during the term, so let us take on some of the planning work for you, and create a workshop plan that suits you! Contact our education team today, we'd love to have a chat.

OUR SCHOOL'S BUDGET IS TIGHT, DO YOU OFFER CUSTOM WORKSHOP PRICING?

Yes! Budgets shouldn't be a limiting factor when it comes to bringing quality learning experiences to your students, which is why we would love to work with you to make a workshop possible at your school. Get in touch with our education team, and we can talk you through our pricing options to find something that suits your school.

WE HAVE A LARGE GROUP SIZE, CAN WE HAVE MORE THAN 25 STUDENTS?

Yes, you can! For classes of over 25 students, an additional workshop staff member will attend to assist the lead workshop instructor with the additional numbers. This does incur an additional cost to cover staffing fees. You may also instead wish to book two workshops on the same day within the same content area for larger cohorts. Smaller group sizes are generally more effective learning environments for students within these workshops.

CAN WE TRAVEL TO CANBERRA YOUTH THEATRE FOR THE WORKSHOP?

Yes! We offer a large workshop space at Gorman Arts Centre in Braddon where we host our on-site workshops. Travelling to Gorman Arts Centre provides the perfect opportunity for students to step out of their day-to-day classroom environment, and experience a new theatrical environment, encouraging new ideas and approaches to drama.

I WOULD LIKE TO BOOK A WORKSHOP! WHO DO I SPEAK TO?

Great, we would love to chat with you about setting up a workshop for your students. Please get in touch with our education team.

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CANBERRA YOUTH THEATRE

**THE VOICE OF YOUTH
EXPRESSED THROUGH
INTELLIGENT AND
CHALLENGING THEATRE**

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