

theYOUNGcompany

theatre for children and young people

**PRIMARY**

**2011 Drama Program**



**FUN & ENERGETIC  
DRAMA EXPERIENCES  
FOR AGES PREP - YEAR 7**



The Young Company, theatre for children and young people was established in January 2009 as a not-for profit organisation. Our vision is to:

*Provide grassroots development for young artistic minds within the Far North Queensland region by creating a theatrical space ruled by expression, where young people can experience a deeper understanding in all aspects of the arts, in turn creating a cultural environment offering a whirlpool of opportunity.*

The Young Company aims to:

- provide an informal and supportive context for personal and social development in between school and home.
- develop young people's ability to be agents in their own development and use their own imagination.
- provide a safe context for young people to take risks and responsibility and assert their independence.
- provide young people with opportunities to explore self and experiment with personal identity in a supportive setting.
- provide young people with opportunities to take responsibility in work-like contexts and develop a range of pre-vocational skills.
- encourage young people to participate more fully in their communities and consider the consequences of the roles they choose to play in the wider world.
- provide young people with opportunities to participate in performance and the creative processes.

## TYC PRIMARY DRAMA PROGRAM

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Theatre, the imagined and enacted world of human beings, is one of the primary ways children and young people learn about life - about actions and consequences, about customs and beliefs, about others and themselves.

In 2009 TYC developed an engaging arts education program that provides multiple entry points into the creative world of performance for children and families, students and teachers. The programs are interlinked with QSA's Essential Learnings, across all key learning areas.

TYC holistic arts education programs and projects are based upon state, national and international research conducted in the area of arts education, in particular youth theatre.

Participating in TYC Education programs and projects will encourage and enable children and young people to experience the arts in active ways as creators and participants, and promoting their creative achievements in a holistic framework.

The Young Company, theatre for children and young people **2010 PRIMARY DRAMA PROGRAM** has been designed to integrate **THE ARTS** Essential Learnings with a number of other **KEY LEARNING AREAS**, including:

- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Science
- Studies of Society and Environment
- Technology
- Information, Communication and Technology (ICTs)

Creativity, interpretation, innovation and cultural understanding are all sought-after skills for new and emerging industries in the 21st century. Drama education provides students with the tools to develop these skills in an integrated manner.

Each TYC Primary Drama Program is **specifically tailored** to suit the schools curriculum requirements. Each program integrates the essential processes of **Ways of Workings** in order for students to develop and demonstrate their **Knowledge and Understanding** across specific Key Learning Areas.

International studies have found that arts education is important to the development of young minds and positively influences learning in other areas. Arts education can also help address social exclusion and assist the development of students with learning difficulties. Learning through the arts can create a more positive environment for students with artistic talents.

The teaching and learning contexts of the subject Drama also provide opportunities for the development of the seven key competencies. In a TYC Program, students are involved in communicating ideas and information, and working with others and in teams. These activities are supported by collecting, analysing and organising information, planning and organising activities, solving problems and, when necessary to enhance the drama work, using technology, mathematical ideas and techniques.

- KC1: collecting, analysing and organising information
- KC2: communicating ideas and information
- KC3: planning and organising activities
- KC4: working with others and in teams
- KC5 using mathematical ideas and techniques
- KC6: solving problems
- KC7: using technology

## Program Aim

The Young Company, theatre for children and young people's **PLAYGROUND** program is a **one hour workshop** that is designed to introduce primary school students from prep through to year seven to the world of drama.

## Program Outline

The program invites participants to experience a range of theatre games and activities through spontaneous improvisation, role-play and character creation. This in turns improves participants:

- Creative thinking skills
- Self-confidence
- Idea-generation skills
- Communication and presentation skills
- Group interaction and team building skills
- Improvisation skills

## Requirements

The area size required for **TYC PLAYGROUND** program is to be no smaller than 100m<sup>2</sup>. Classes can be conducted indoors or outdoors, however this space needs to be protected by rain, sun, wind and other weather conditions. Schools will also need to supply a CD player with suitable power and sufficient sound.

## Costs

Classes will cost \$140/hr\* (min 10 - max of 25 students per class) if the school is located within the Cairns region. If class sizes are 25+ they will require two drama teachers and/or sessions to deliver the program.

## Timetable

Below is an **example** timetable that can be **customized** to suit a whole-school program.

| TIME          | CLASS    |
|---------------|----------|
| 9 am - 10 am  | Prep     |
| 10 am - 11 am | Year 1/2 |
| 11 am - 12 pm | Year 3/4 |
| 12 pm - 1 pm  | Year 5   |
| 1 pm - 2 pm   | Year 6   |
| 2 pm - 3 pm   | Year 7   |

\*Programs outside Cairns 20km region will incur travel expenses at 50c/km

## Program Aim

The Young Company, theatre for children and young people's **APPLAUSE** program is a **3-Day Intensive Drama Workshop** that is designed to engage and develop primary school students' skills in drama and stagecraft with their current in-class curriculum focus. At the end of a **TYC APPLAUSE** program, parents and friends are invited to view the students' creative work in action.

## Program Outline

The program invites participants to experience actively creating, shaping and managing drama based upon the schools in-class curriculum focus. They explore ideas and interpretations of their in-class curriculum focus and develop knowledge and understanding of dramatic languages to create and shape dramatic meaning and dramatic action. They learn to hypothesise, experiment and make judgments as they select, manipulate and structure the dramatic languages to create their own work. TYC will also provide a range of costumes and appropriate set and props for the Applause Showcase.

## Requirements

The area size required for **TYC APPLAUSE** program is to be no smaller than 100m<sup>2</sup>. Classes can be conducted indoors or outdoors, however this space needs to be protected by rain, sun, wind and other weather conditions. Schools will also need to supply a CD player with suitable power and sufficient sound.

## Costs

The **3-Day APPLAUSE Program** will cost \$60/student\* (min of 20 - max of 25 students per class) if the school is located within the Cairns region. That is only \$20.00 per student / per day for professional drama workshops and a creative student showcase. If class sizes are 25+ schools will require two or more drama teachers and/or sessions to deliver the program.

## Timetable

Below is an **example** timetable that can be **customized** to suit your school requirements.

| <b>DRAMA TEACHER</b> | <b>DAY 1 – 3 TIMES</b> | <b>CLASS</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| One                  | 9 am - 3 pm            | Year 2       |
| Two                  | 9 am - 3 pm            | Year 3       |
| Three                | 9 am - 3 pm            | Year 4       |

\*Schools outside Cairns region will incur travel, accommodation and living away from home allowance expenses.

# TYC CENTRESTAGE

Weekly Drama Workshop Program across a 10-week school term

## Program Aim

The Young Company, theatre for children and young people's **CENTRESTAGE** program is a **weekly one hour workshop across a school term** that is designed to prepare primary school students for a polished and rehearsed devised or scripted performance for parents and friends.

## Program Outline

The program runs over a **10-week school term** and invites participants to perform centrestage for parents and friends at a designated performance venue\* within the region (JUTE Theatre, Civic Theatre, TYC Adventure Theatre etc). **TYC CENTRESTAGE** invites participants to experience actively creating, shaping and managing drama effectively to a live audience based upon the schools chosen curriculum focus for the term and selected drama form. For example:

- Fairytales (Cinderella, Snow White, 3 Little Pigs etc)
- Children's Novels (ie: Charlie and Chocolate Factory, Charlotte's Web etc)
- Greek Theatre
- Shakespeare (ie: children's versions of Macbeth, Midsummer's Nigh Dream, Twelfth Night etc)
- Classic English Literature (ie: Oliver Twist, Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Peter Pan)

## Requirements

The area size required for **TYC CENTRESTAGE** workshops is to be no smaller than 100m2. Classes can be conducted indoors or outdoors, however this space needs to be protected by rain, sun, wind and other weather conditions. Schools will also need to supply a CD player with suitable power and sufficient sound as well as appropriate sets, props and costumes for the production.

## Costs

The 10-week Program will cost \$55/student\*\* (min of 20 - max of 25 students per class). That is only \$5.50/week for a professional drama workshop, which includes a polished and rehearsed scripted performance. If class sizes are 25+ schools they will require two or more drama teachers and/or sessions to deliver the program.

## Timetable

Below is an **example** timetable that can be **customized** to suit your school requirements.

| WEEKLY TIMETABLE |    |   |       | CLASS |         |
|------------------|----|---|-------|-------|---------|
| 9.00             | am | - | 10.30 | am    | Year 5A |
| 10.30            | am | - | 12.00 | pm    | Year 5B |
| 12.00            | pm | - | 1.30  | pm    | Year 5C |
| 1.30             | pm | - | 3.00  | pm    | Year 5D |

\*Additional costs may be incurred with selected performance venue

\*\*Programs outside Cairns 20km region will incur travel expenses at 50c/km

# TYC NO SCRIPTS REQUIRED

Weekly Devising Drama Workshop Program across a 20-week school semester

## Program Aim

The Young Company, theatre for children and young people's **NO SCRIPTS REQUIRED** program is a **weekly one to two hour workshop across a school semester** that is designed for primary school students to **devise** and **stage** their own scripted performances for parents and friends.

## Program Outline

The program runs over a **20-week school semester** and invites participants to become the playwright and director of their own polished student-devised production for parents and friends at a designated performance venue\* within the region (JUTE Theatre, Civic Theatre, TYC Adventure Theatre, Rondo Theatre etc). Using the schools in-class curriculum focus, participants will experience how to actively create, shape and manage their own drama. This is achieved using an aesthetic learning framework; a combination of devising and process drama conventions. Participants' imaginations will come alive as they manipulate and structure dramatic action and shape dramatic meaning.

## Requirements

The area size required for **TYC NO SCRIPTS REQUIRED** program is to be no smaller than 100m<sup>2</sup>. Classes can be conducted indoors or outdoors, however this space needs to be protected by rain, sun, wind and other weather conditions. Schools will also need to supply a CD player with suitable power and sufficient sound as well as appropriate sets, props and costumes for the production.

## Costs

The 20-week Program will cost \$55\* per student / **per term** (min 20 - max of 25 students per class). That is just \$5.50/week for a professional drama workshop, which includes a polished and rehearsed student-devised performance piece. If class sizes are 25+ they will require two or more drama teachers and/or sessions to deliver the program.

## Timetable

Below is an **example** timetable that can be **customized** to suit your school requirements.

| TIME  |    |   |          | CLASS   |
|-------|----|---|----------|---------|
| 9.00  | am | - | 10.30 am | Year 7A |
| 10.30 | am | - | 12.00 pm | Year 7B |
| 12.00 | pm | - | 1.30 pm  | Year 7C |
| 1.30  | pm | - | 3.00 pm  | Year 7D |

\*Additional costs may be incurred with selected performance venue

\*\*Programs outside Cairns 20km region will incur travel expenses at 50c/km

# THEATRE DEFINITIONS

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The following terms are defined for the purposes of TYC Primary Drama Program to ensure a shared understanding of the terms:

**Acting techniques:** skills associated with preparing an actor for performance, such as relaxation and concentration, imagination, improvisation, movement, voice, role analysis, character preparation, use of acting space, and rehearsal.

**Aesthetic learning** describes the mode of learning that students predominantly use in a Drama classroom. It can be defined as a means of inquiry that operates cognitively and affectively through the senses to offer a particular way for students to understand the world.

**Devising:** unlike writing a play or rehearsing a play that has been written by a playwright, devising is a collaborative venture that involves the entire group in the creative process. Collaboration occurs both in developing the script and performing the final product. (Tarlington, C & Michaels, W 1995, *Building Plays*, Addison Wesley Longman, Melbourne.)

**Improvisation** is a spontaneous dramatic exploration. The purpose of improvisation is to create dramatic meaning based on a given idea, stimulus material, situation, role and/or relationship and so on. It involves accepting and making offers, being in the moment, structuring the action, and creating time and place through language, movement and props.

**Process drama:** the primary purpose of process drama is to establish an imagined world created by the facilitator and participants as they discover, articulate, and sustain fictional roles and situations. Process drama is an improvised dramatic event that proceeds without a written playtext and can include episodes that are composed and rehearsed rather than improvised. An important difference between process drama and improvisation is that process drama is not limited to single, brief exercises or scenes. Process drama does not necessarily end in a product, but does have a meaningful conclusion for the participants. The starting point for a process drama may include stimulus material, such as an issue relevant to the participants, or a pretext such as a story, myth or legend, a song, newspaper cutting, poem, photograph or other visual image. (O'Neill, C 1995, *Drama Worlds: A framework for process drama*, Heinemann, Portsmouth.)