

Melbourne Playback Theatre Company
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www.melbourneplayback.com.au

**MELBOURNE
PLAYBACK
THEATRE COMPANY**

Melbourne Playback - Working with Education Providers

Melbourne Playback provides performances and workshops that transform, empower and entertain audiences, awakening new ideas and perspectives.

Building on more than 30 years experience as a leading interactive theatre company working with schools, universities and other education providers, we continue to refine and investigate the practice of storytelling.

A Melbourne Playback performance shares audience's stories and transforms them into theatre. This awakens a range of perspectives and ideas in a safe and supportive space. Any subject matter, even the most complex, is approached with sensitivity and courage to provide the opportunity for people to voice, reflect and affirm personal experience.



A very effective debrief tool for our students who attend Marshmead Campus for a term.

**Mark Gray, Director of Education Outdoors
Methodist Ladies College**

There are many ways we work with education providers:

Entertainment, Celebration & Team-Building

Melbourne Playback performances are a dynamic way to bring staff and/or students together to milestones such as the end of the school year and have a laugh together. The interactive nature of our work is sure to capture people's attention and affirm the sense of team and community within your school. We open up empathy and the active listening and improvisation skills displayed by our professional performing ensemble are an inspiring example of teamwork at its best.

School Community

Through the sharing of participant's stories, a Melbourne Playback performance creates a bridge which makes one person's experience accessible to others. All perspectives are valued and often the person who rarely speaks will share a story. The process builds an understanding between students, staff, parents and the broader school community, providing a reflective forum where emerging themes reveal to the community what lives at its heart.

Staff Training & Development Programs

Melbourne Playback performances are an excellent reflective tool within training and development programs. See our corporate executive training brochure for more information.

Transitions

By encouraging students to identify and express their thoughts and feelings through periods of change (like the transitions from junior to middle-school and to VCE), Melbourne Playback performances are a memorable way to mark certain milestones in the educational journey.

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Image by Pia Johnson

Melbourne Playback's performance on the first day of our Youth Scholarship Course helps the students bond, inspires them and shows the benefits of working together as an ensemble.

**Susie Thomas, Education Manager
Melbourne Playback Company**

School Culture & Personal Development Programs

Melbourne Playback performances are a positive way for people to reflect on their thoughts and feelings around issues affecting the school community such as peer group pressure. It is often difficult for those within a group to see the culture for what it is. Our actors create a mirror for the group which is non-threatening and engaging. Individual stories have wider resonance for the audience and group members are often surprised and delighted that they are not alone in their experiences and perceptions. This can be an important step towards the forging of a shared vision.

Drama & Theatre Studies

Melbourne Playback is one of the world's leading playback theatre companies and our performances are an inspiring example of improvisation, non-naturalism and ensemble performance for drama and theatre studies students. As a stand-alone performance or in conjunction with a skill building workshop, it is a great way to launch a unit of study.

Drama & Theatre Studies Workshops

Our performers and musicians facilitate a range of skill-building workshops suitable for drama students. These include improvisation, playback theatre, performance-making, ensemble performance, monologue & solo performance, Shakespeare, character, physical theatre, song & voice, mime and more. See our workshop menu for more details.

Linking with VELS

Apart from the obvious compliment to The Arts and English curriculum areas, Melbourne Playback performances and workshops have a significant relevance to the Interpersonal Development, Communication and Civics & Citizenship domains of VELS. Our performances get students to see issues from different perspectives, empathise with others and identify their own place within society. We offer communication workshops in listening, everyday presentation, public speaking, non-verbal communication and storytelling, as well as performance-based workshops that encourage teamwork.

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