

## Workshops, Training & Professional Development

Melbourne Playback provides a variety of training opportunities and packages that can be delivered in conjunction with a performance, or as a stand-alone skill-building workshop. Participants experience new ways of thinking, active listening, emotional intelligence, creativity and fun. These skills help create cohesive teams by developing trust and creative play.

A Melbourne Playback workshop is effective as an icebreaker with new or large group, and helps develop networks within established groups. What better way to approach team-building than by participating in a fun theatre-based workshop designed to get everyone outside their comfort zones and working together using creativity and focus!

### Tailor-made workshops

Melbourne Playback can design and facilitate a workshop or series of workshops to meet the specific needs of your group and the aims of your conference, training program or event. [Contact us to discuss your goals.](#)

<a href="#">Present</a>	workshops for confidence, presentation, facilitation and public speaking.
<a href="#">Communicate</a>	workshops include "activated listening", "the body speaks", "emotional intelligence" and "performing for customers".
<a href="#">Create &amp; Improvise</a>	workshops in improvisation, storytelling and clowning.
<a href="#">Playback</a>	learn Playback Theatre from professional playback theatre practitioners.
<a href="#">Sound &amp; Music</a>	workshops in rhythm, song and improvising.
<a href="#">Perform &amp; Move</a>	workshops for actors and non-actors include "performance making", "embodying character", "physical theatre" and "ensemble performance"
<a href="#">Other Workshops</a>	"games for groups" and "drama for all abilities".
<a href="#">In Residence</a>	performing artist in residence for organisations and communities
<a href="#">FAQs</a>	how long? how much? who? and where?

## **PRESENTATION, FACILITATION & PUBLIC SPEAKING**

### **Presenting with Confidence**

(half day, 1 day or series : 10-25 participants)

Use actor-training methodology to increase personal confidence and improve everyday presentation skills and public speaking. Supportive and energised workshops full of laughter, participants will discover an increased awareness and control of verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

### **Presentation & Public Speaking**

(half day, 1 day or series : 5-12 participants)

Drawing on acting techniques, participants will learn how to master their physical and verbal presence to take their public speaking to the next level and make their presentations even more engaging.

### **Facilitating Discussion**

(short : 5-20 participants)

Learn how Melbourne Playback's talented facilitators generate discussion, tackle difficult topics and foster an environment where every voice is valued and everyone feels able to speak.

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## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Activated Listening**

(short, 1 day or series : 5-40 participants)

This interactive workshop builds a team's ability to work together by focussing on one of the most fundamental elements of communication – listening. Using a range of engaging exercises and drawing on our experience of playback theatre, participants experience empathic listening, and build on their ability to listen to both verbal and non-verbal communication.

### **The Body Speaks**

(short : 5-40 participants)

This workshop helps participants master the art of non-verbal communication - body language and "the unspoken". Melbourne Playback's ensemble of actors appear to read each other's minds when they perform – find out how in this fun and inspiring workshop.

### **Emotional Intelligence**

(short, 1 day or series : 5-20 participants)

This challenging workshop equips participants with the ability to understand the heart of a situation and respond accordingly. Exercises build skills essential for managers; empathetic listening, reading the unspoken, compassion, giving feedback and dealing with conflict and tension.

### **Performing for Customers**

(short or 1 day: 10-40 participants)

Drawing on acting and improvisation techniques, give your customer service staff an energised workshop where they discover an increased awareness and control of their verbal and non-verbal communication skills and learn techniques to get the most out of their interaction with customers. Units include the basic customer

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## **SPONTANEITY, FUN & CREATIVITY**

### **In the Moment**

(short, 1 day or series : 10-40 participants)

In this fun and engaging workshop participants learn the basics of improvisation and discover how useful spontaneity and creativity can be in everyday life! Spontaneous improvisation empowers participants to thrive in meetings, teamwork, networking events and when speaking from the cuff or delivering impromptu speeches.

### **Storytelling**

(short or 1 day : 8-150 participants)

Drawing on the disciplines of playback theatre, improvisation and narrative, this workshop has participants telling, inventing, sharing and hearing stories of all kinds. This ancient tradition is how humans learn and make sense of ourselves, each other and our worlds. Melbourne Playback Theatre has helped hundreds of organisations and communities articulate their own story through performances and workshops. A tailored storytelling workshop helps find a cohesive story full of meaning that resonates within an organisation and with its clients and customers.

### **Discover your inner Clown!**

(short, series, 1 day or 1 week : 8-20 participants)

These workshops are sure to have you laughing heartily at yourself and with your colleagues.

### **Circus**

(short : 8-20 participants)

Not quite death-defying feats – but this workshop is sure to get your heart pumping with the thrill of circus performance.

### **Mime – an introduction**

(short : 10-40 participants)

Several Melbourne Playback actors are skilled in the art of mime. Learn the ancient performance tradition mastered by people like Charles Chaplin, Marcel Marceau and Jacques Lecoq.

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Melbourne Playback Theatre Company  
PO BOX 822 North Melbourne VIC 3051  
PH: +61 3 9690 9253  
Email: [info@melbourneplayback.com.au](mailto:info@melbourneplayback.com.au)  
[www.melbourneplayback.com.au](http://www.melbourneplayback.com.au)

**MELBOURNE  
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THEATRE COMPANY**

## **PLAYBACK THEATRE**

### **Introduction to Playback Theatre**

(series : 8-20 participants)

Learn Playback Theatre from Melbourne's most experienced Playback Theatre practitioners.

### **Advanced Playback Theatre**

(series : 8-20 participants)

Workshops for people with some experience performing Playback Theatre looking to extend their skills, rehearse alongside members of the Melbourne Playback ensemble and learn the new forms developed by Melbourne Playback Theatre Company.

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## **MUSIC & SOUND**

### **Percussion and Drumming**

(short or half day : 5-20 participants)

Discover how much fun it is to create rhythm and music together! Melbourne Playback's talented musicians transform your group into a rhythm-making machine.

### **Song and Voice**

(short or series : 8-20 participants)

Unlock the potential of your voice in this fun and freeing workshop. Learn songs, create harmonies and watch as the group becomes a choir.

### **Improvising Music for Playback Theatre**

(short : 1-20 participants)

A workshop for musicians. Melbourne Playback's own musicians share their approach to improvising alongside actors from the Melbourne Playback ensemble.

### **Klezmer and Nigun with Ernie Gruner**

(short or series : 5-20 participants)

Learn Eastern European Jewish tunes (klezmer) and wordless songs (nigunnim) with Melbourne Playback Theatre's highly talented musician.

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## **PERFORMANCE SKILLS (for actors or non-actors)**

### **Performance-making**

(short, half day or series : 10-30 participants)

Workshops full of performance exercises designed to generate ideas and work towards creating a unique theatre performance with a group of performers or non-performers.

### **Performing Shakespeare**

(short : 5-20 participants)

Tackle the language of world's most famous playwright – a workshop for actors and non-actors alike.

### **Mastering Text**

(short or series : 5-20 participants)

Learn how actors learn and perform dialogue and unlock the many meanings and truths hidden in every line of text.

### **Masked Theatre**

(short or half day : 5-20 participants)

There's so much to discover about performance, character and yourself when you play in the magical world of mask. Look through different eyes!

### **Embodying Character**

(short, half day or series : 5-40 participants)

Learn a range of ways to invent, discover, inhabit and perform a unique character. Whether you're starting from scratch, improvising or playing Hamlet, this workshop will have you standing in someone else's shoes.

### **Physical Theatre**

(short, day or series : 8-40 participants)

When they perform, Melbourne Playback actors draw on a range of physical theatre traditions including Butoh, Suzuki, Viewpoints, Grotowski, Contact Improvisation, Action Theatre and more. Find new ways to express yourself through movement in these energising workshops.

### **The Articulate Body**

(short, day or series : 8-30 participants)

Explore the expressive possibility of your body.

### **Ensemble Performance**

(short or series : 8-30 participants)

Discover the synergy of ensemble performance from one of Melbourne's tightest professional performing ensembles.

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## **OTHER WORKSHOPS**

### **Drama for All Abilities**

(short or series : 8-15 participants)

Drama workshops for participants with disabilities. Melbourne Playback Theatre Company has a number of workshop facilitators experienced in working with people with disabilities including our work with JCAAA running a weekly workshop for teenagers with disabilities in the City of Port Phillip.

### **Games for groups**

(short : 8-30 participants)

A workshop for teachers, facilitators, youth-workers and anyone looking to expand their repertoire of interactive games and activities for groups.

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## **PERFORMING ARTIST IN RESIDENCE**

Schools and communities often employ an actor, musician or visual artist to spend an extended time engaging with the school community to discover creative skills or work on a creative project. Melbourne Playback are the only company to offer this service to professional organisations as well. Imagine the energy, ideas and skills that could be generated by engaging with members of Melbourne Playback Theatre over a longer-timeline. Let us join you on a creative journey like no other!

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How long are your workshops?**

We offer short workshops (1-2 hours), half-day workshops (4 hours), full-day workshops (6 hours) and workshop series of up to 6 short sessions.

### **How many participants?**

Most of our workshops are suited to small groups of less than 20 participants. Ensuring that the group size is appropriate for both the course content and the size of the space is critical to the success of the workshop. [Contact us to discuss your needs.](#)

### **How much do you charge?**

Our workshop prices depend on the size and scope of the workshop appropriate for your group. As a guide, short workshops can cost between \$10 and \$150 per participant. [Contact us for a quote.](#)

### **Who are your facilitators?**

Our facilitators are professional performing artists from Melbourne Playback Theatre Company. Most workshops are facilitated by company members with specific training or skills appropriate to the workshop goals. All our facilitators are sure to inspire participants with their passionate and engaging style. [Read about our company members here.](#)

### **Where do you run your workshops?**

We can facilitate most workshops in your space, whether it be in a conference centre, a board-room or a school-hall. We usually require a large open space clear of all furniture and relatively private. Alternatively, we can arrange a theatre rehearsal space especially for you.

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