

DARWIN
FESTIVAL
8-25 AUGUST 2024

SCHOOLS PROGRAM

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Image: Little Murre by Angela Grabowska

HI THERE,



In curating the Schools Program for Darwin Festival 2024, we want students in the Northern Territory to experience the awe and wonder of live performing arts –

to be transported to different places, to be wowed by incredible skills, and to dive deep into the stories, characters and worlds created live on stage.

We are thrilled to present a selection of Darwin Festival shows as part of our Schools Program in 2024 that connect strongly with the curriculum. These shows cross over many artforms including theatre, dance, media, music, circus and physical theatre and feature artists from Northern Territory, Australia, and the world. There is something for all ages and year levels and we hope they resonate deeply with young people in the Northern Territory.

This year, we are presenting two fantastic theatre productions: *Fourteen* by Shake and Stir Theatre Company, and *Paradise or the Impermanence of Icecream* by Indian Ink Theatre Company. *Fourteen* is an equal parts uplifting and heart-wrenching account of Shannon Molloy's fourteenth year of life – a moving true story. *Paradise or the Impermanence of Icecream* features a stellar solo performance with the actor moving effortlessly between seven characters, transporting us to the vibrant chaos of Mumbai.

Accessibility and inclusion are important aspects of Darwin Festival. We are thrilled to present *Little Murrumbidgee* by Aakash Odedra – a stunning visual production that is an honest and heartfelt conversation about the trials and tribulations of living with dyslexia.

Schools will be the first to witness the world premiere of *Song Spirals* by Rosealee Pearson. The show invites young people to experience ancient Yolŋu rhythm and songs brought to life through stunning movement, music and visual projections.

We're pleased to once again partner with Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory to present a special National Science Week event, particularly for primary-schools with the NT premiere of *The Whale's Tale*, exploring themes of Species Survival and sustainability.

There is a lot on offer for primary schools with a highlight being *I Wish*. Two of Australia's most well-regarded companies, Patch Theatre and Gravity & Other Myths, join forces to present a gorgeous playful show, full of acrobatics, stunning visuals and playful humour.

This program would not be possible without the support of our partners including the Northern Territory Government through the Department of Education, The Smith Family, and CDC Northern Territory. I also want to particularly thank the Schools Advisory Committee who provide us with excellent advice. And lastly, all of the teachers and schools who engage in the Schools Program and support their students to have memorable festival experiences and engagement in the arts.

I look forward to seeing you at a show.

Best wishes,

KATE FELL
Darwin Festival Artistic Director

I WISH

**By Patch Theatre in collaboration
with Gravity & Other Myths**

CIRCUS / THEATRE // RECOMMENDED FOR PRE-SCHOOL & PRIMARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS (AGES 4-8)

An acrobatic adventure exploring all the things we could be.

People are made of stuff – good stuff and bad stuff, happy and sad stuff, stinky, odd, boring, dangerous, funny, sparkling potions of stuff. People also have secret ingredients – what could your secret ingredient be?

Enter a world of colour and creativity as performers imagine all the things they could be – from an astronaut to a unicorn, and everything in between. While exploring their feelings and differences on stage, they reveal the magic of individuality.

Featuring gravity-defying acrobatics, stunning visuals, and playful humour, *I Wish...* is an unforgettable live performance experience.

WHEN: Tue 13 Aug, 11am
WHERE: The Playhouse, Darwin Entertainment Centre
DURATION: 45 minutes
TICKETS: \$15 per student



Links to the Curriculum Standards

I Wish... is an engaging exploration of what it means to belong, be and become through play-based learning. The show actively encourages curiosity and the opportunity to dream big while also providing tools to reflect on who we are and what we want to be in this diverse and complex world.

Content descriptor: Exploration of ideas, observations and the boundaries of our imagination through theatrical circus interaction and immersion.

General capabilities: Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability

Critical and Creative Thinking

- Engage with different ways of thinking and doing through theatrical interpretation
- Experiment with ideas and use curious play to respond to stimulus
- Explain how personal qualities contribute to identities and describe strategies to manage emotions, transitions and change

Personal and Social Capability

- Recognise how our emotions and life experiences directly impact our behaviours and decisions
- Develop empathy towards others and the social skills needed when building positive relationships

Education pack available on request

THE WHALE'S TALE

By Born in a Taxi

Presented by Darwin Festival and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory as part of National Science Week

OUTDOOR EVENT / THEATRE // RECOMMENDED FOR PRE-SCHOOL
& PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGES 4-12)

**An environmental tale to warm the heart and inspire you
to play your part in caring for the planet and the animals
we share it with.**

A whale is washed up on a beach. Is it alive or dead? How did it get there? The spirit of the whale, embodied as the Navigator, embarks on a journey to find out what is wrong, with the dubious help of Dr Walrus.

The Whale's Tale is a highly interactive spectacle full of slapstick, clowning and a nine-meter whale puppet that can swallow you whole!

Scientists forecast that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the sea than fish. *The Whale's Tale* inspires you and your children to make a difference.

The Whale's Tale is the perfect opportunity for students to engage with the 2024 National Science Week theme, Species Survival – More than just sustainability.

WHEN: Wed 14 – Fri 16 Aug, 10.30am

WHERE: Amphitheatre, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

DURATION: 50 minutes

TICKETS: \$15 per student



Links to the Curriculum Standards

The Whale's Tale is an inspiring ode to the state of our oceans and the many impressive creatures we share them with. The show aims to empower children and their families to make simple changes towards improving the future of our oceans and waterways.

Cross curriculum priority: Sustainability

Content descriptor: Express world views and develop an appreciation and understanding for how we can implement more socially and environmentally just patterns of living. In addition, develop the ability to make balanced judgements based on present and future impacts.

General capabilities: Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical Understanding

Critical and Creative Thinking

- Explore what arts role is in maintenance and transformation of cultural practices, social systems and the relationships of people to their environment
- Comprehend the multifaceted nature of environmental issues and start to propose solutions and outcomes to help plan for future action

Ethical Understanding

- Build a strong, resilient outlook that helps us to manage context, conflict and uncertainty in the face of complex issues
- Develop an awareness of the values of care and responsibility

Themes:

- Ecology in our waterways
- Pollution and human degradation
- Climate action through teamwork

Education pack available on request

LITTLE MURMUR

By Aakash Odedra

DANCE THEATRE / MEDIA // RECOMMENDED FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL,
MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGES 7+)

An incredible dance theatre show that features groundbreaking projection, an extraordinary soundscape and a blizzard of paper and confetti.

Diagnosed with dyslexia at a young age, Aakash Odedra found school very challenging: he spelt his name wrongly until he was 21 and it wasn't until he "found the missing 'A'" that he felt he belonged. Defined by his learning difficulties, not his abilities, dance became his mode of expression.

Combining visual design and technology with dance and humour, *Little Murmur* explores the warped and exaggerated realities of living in a world you struggle to process. Based on Aakash's hugely moving show *Murmur 2.0*, this stunning visual treat is an honest and heartfelt conversation about the trials and tribulations of living with dyslexia, facing challenges and overcoming the odds.

Watch bodies and words fly like flocks of birds, a murmuration, a little murmur.

WHEN: Mon 19 Aug, 11am

WHERE: Studio Theatre, Darwin Entertainment Centre

DURATION: 40 minutes

TICKETS: \$15 per student



Image by Pamela Raith

Links to the Curriculum Standards

Little Murmur is an honest and heartfelt conversation about the experience of living with a learning difficulty, retold for young audiences. It explores themes of identity, expression and diversity in learning methods, and empowers young people to see their tribulations as birds in flight.

Content descriptor: The show opens discussions around identity, difference, inclusion and empathy in the classroom and ties in with wellbeing initiatives for various year groups.

General capabilities: Personal and Social Capability, Critical and Creative Thinking, Literacy, Ethical Understanding

Personal and Social Capability

- Explore a range of factors and behaviours that can influence health, safety and wellbeing
- Apply strategies for maintaining a positive outlook

Critical and Creative Thinking

- Identify and discuss different performance styles and the portrayal of choreographers' intentions through the work
- Explore dramatic action, empathy and space to communicate meaning and story

Ethical Understanding

- Form ethical perspectives on contemporary issues like different methods of learning and ways of being in this world
- Analyse the negative effect stereotypes can have on relationships, as well as the positive impact respect, empathy and valuing diversity

Themes:

- Adversity and success
- Individual vs community expectations
- Social model of disability

Education pack available on request

SONG SPIRALS

By Rosealee Pearson

Presented by Darwin Festival and Brown's Mart

DANCE / MEDIA // RECOMMENDED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGES 12+)

Song Spirals will take the audiences on a sensory journey which includes a fusion of traditional and contemporary dance and song from Yolŋu culture, from Northeast Arnhem Land

A feast for the senses, *Song Spirals* invites you to experience the language, culture and Country of creator Rosealee Pearson through music, dance and projections.

The rhythm and songs of the Milkarri (Yolŋu song spirals) are transformed in contemporary compositions by Andrew Grimes, as dancers become the canvas for stunning projections created by Naina Sen. Inspired by the 2020 award-winning book written by the Gay'wu group of women, *Song Spirals* transports you to the heart of Yolŋu country for a sensory experience that combines age old tradition with contemporary creativity.

WHEN: Wed 7 & Thur 8 Aug, 11am

WHERE: Brown's Mart Theatre

DURATION: 1 hour

TICKETS: \$15 per student

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Image by Naina Sen

Links to the Curriculum Standards

Song Spirals will take the audiences on a sensory journey which includes a fusion of traditional and contemporary dance and song from Yolŋu culture, from Northeast Arnhem Land.

Cross curriculum priority: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

Content descriptor: Identify expressive capacity of voice and movement to communicate ideas and dramatic action in a range of forms, styles and performance spaces, including exploration of those developed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists

General capabilities: Intercultural Understanding, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability

Intercultural Understanding

- Understanding First Nations perspectives, cultures and history
- Empathise with the emotions, needs and situations of others

Critical and Creative Thinking

- Evaluating choreographers' intentions and expressive skills in dances they view and perform
- Identify and discuss different performance styles and the portrayal of different roles and relationships

Personal and Social Capability

- Understand the role of advocacy in contemporary society and build their capacity to critique societal constructs and forms of discrimination
- Being open-minded and recognising that people view and experience the world in different ways

Themes:

- First Nations storytelling and artistic expression
- Survival and adversity
- Innovative technical design

PARADISE OR THE IMPERMANENCE OF ICE CREAM

By Indian Ink Theatre Company

THEATRE // RECOMMENDED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGES 12+)

Take a wild ride to paradise with Indian Ink's powerful new play about impermanence – of life, love... and ice cream!

This glorious production is inspired by Ernest Becker's Pulitzer prize winning *Denial of Death*, and the vibrant, life-filled chaos of India's most cosmopolitan city, Mumbai.

Jacob Rajan delivers a dazzling solo performance as he channels seven characters, weaving the afterlife and a dash of Bollywood disco into the real-life mystery of India's vanishing vultures.

A man trying desperately to avoid death is flung between limbo and his past where a rebellious young woman holds the key that may guide him to paradise.

Infused with serious laughter, exquisite puppetry and inspired sound design this show is guaranteed to blow your mind and melt your heart.

Please join us for a short Q&A session after the performance.

WHEN: Fri 23 Aug, 11am
WHERE: Studio Theatre, Darwin Entertainment Centre
DURATION: 1 hour 35mins including post show Q&A
TICKETS: \$15 per student



Links to the Curriculum Standards

Paradise or the Impermanence of Ice Cream creatively combines Indian flavours with Western theatrical traditions to tell a real-life story with humanity and humour that connects with audiences from all cultures and backgrounds.

Cross curriculum priority: Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia

Content descriptor: Understand how visual artworks and dramatic techniques can be used in harmony to convey ideas, issues and themes.

General capabilities: Intercultural Understanding, Critical and Creative Thinking

Intercultural Understanding

- Engage with artworks from diverse cultural sources to challenge the way we think about accepted roles, images, objects, sounds, beliefs and practices
- Appreciate the diversity of cultures and contexts in which artists and audiences live

Critical and Creative Thinking

- Identifying and analysing how the elements of performance are combined to focus and drive the dramatic action for an audience
- Communicate and share how one thinks, visualises and innovates for a variety of audiences

Themes:

- Innovative puppetry and staging techniques
- Human-nature relationship
- Non-Western cultural stories

FOURTEEN

By Shannon Molloy

Adapted & created by Shake & Stir Theatre Co

Presented by Darwin Festival and Darwin Entertainment Centre

THEATRE // RECOMMENDED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR SCHOOL
STUDENTS (AGES 14+)

The year is 1999 and Shannon has a secret

Shannon Molloy is a year 9 student at a rugby-mad all-boys Catholic school in coastal regional Queensland. The year is 1999 and Shannon has a secret that no one can ever find out. Shannon is gay.

Equal parts uplifting and heart wrenching, *Fourteen* follows Shannon in a year of self-discovery set amidst a backdrop of torment, bullying and betrayal – not just at the hands of his peers, but by the adults who were meant to protect him.

This is a moving true story of adversity but also a story of resilience, hope and hilarity – thanks to the love of a group of close-knit friends, a fiercely protective family, an extraordinary mother and... S Club 7.

WHEN: **Fri 16 Aug, 11am**

WHERE: **The Playhouse, Darwin Entertainment Centre**

DURATION: **1hr 40 minutes**

TICKETS: **\$15 per student**

Warnings: Strong coarse language, mature themes, simulated violence, depictions of self-harm and suicide ideation, and sexual abuse. Strobe lighting, theatrical smoke effects, and the use of stage cigarettes.



Image by Dylan Evans

Links to the Curriculum Standards

Fourteen is an honest, heartfelt memoir exploring themes of belonging and identity. The production combines elements of visual and physical theatre with magical realism and an impressive set-design to deliver a show that truly encapsulates one student's coming-of-age story.

Content descriptor: Manipulate elements of drama to convey the physical and psychological aspects of characters consistent with intentions in dramatic forms and performance styles

General capabilities: Ethical Understanding, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability

Ethical Understanding

- Develop an understanding of values and ethical principles when interpreting and evaluating artworks and their meaning

Critical and Creative Thinking

- Identifying alternative explanations and seeing or making new links that generate a positive outcome
- Evaluate how the elements of drama, forms and performance styles in devised and scripted drama convey meaning and aesthetic effect

Personal and Social Capability

- Empathise with the emotions, needs and situations of others, to appreciate diverse perspectives, and to understand and negotiate different types of relationships
- Identify and assess personal strengths, interests and challenges

Themes:

- Creative storytelling
- Our relationship with technology
- Adversity and success

Education pack available on request

TICKETING INFORMATION

For every 10 students booked, one teacher or guardian is entitled to a complimentary ticket.

Please complete a booking form at darwinfestival.org.au or contact our friendly Box Office team for more information.

P: 08 8943 4222 **E:** boxoffice@darwinfestival.org.au

Limited free bus transportation is available thanks to generous support of the Northern Territory's largest bus operator, CDC Northern Territory. Please indicate your interest in free charter transport when completing the booking form.

RISK ASSESSMENT

As part of its work practices, Darwin Festival has extensive WHS processes and procedures in place to enable us to cater for large numbers of patrons across multiple venues. The following information is provided for school Risk Assessment.

Venue:

Amphitheatre, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT

Brief:

An outdoor space located at the MAGNT Amphitheatre (access through the Freshwater Pond exhibit to the left of the main entrance). The area is grassed with limited shade and will be separated for ticket holders. Care should be taken when moving around the space.

Hazards:

- Even-surfaced venue with highly reduced risk of slip or trips
- Power leads are taped down and do not cross pathways
- Sufficient house lighting at the entry/exit at start and end of shows
- 'No-go' or 'staff only' zones are clearly signed
- It is an outdoor venue, sun protection and drinking water advised
- Front of house staff will be in attendance

Disabled Access:

Yes

Toilets:

Adequate toilets to service 1,000 people

First Aider:

Yes, however teacher will be the first responder for their own students

First Aid Kit:

Yes

Fire Extinguishers:

Yes

Venue:

Brown's Mart Theatre

Brief:

A heritage listed air-conditioned theatre venue with a medium-sized undercover veranda for shade prior to entrance to the theatre.

Hazards:

- Even-surfaced venue with highly reduced risk of slip or trips
- Power leads are taped down and do not cross pathways
- Sufficient house lighting at the entry/exit at start and end of shows
- Illuminated steps in the auditorium
- 'No-go' or 'staff only' zones are clearly signed
- Exit signs are illuminated
- Front of house staff will be in attendance
- Courtyard is fenced and can be opened in the event of an emergency

Disabled Access:

Yes

Toilets:

- 2 x female stalls and 2 x hand basins
- 1 x male stall and 1 x urinal, and 2 x hand basins
- 1 x disabled toilet and 1 x hand basin

First Aider:

Yes, however teacher will be the first responder for their own students

First Aid Kit:

Yes

Fire Extinguishers:

Yes

Venue:**Darwin Entertainment Centre – Studio Theatre & The Playhouse****Brief:**

A modern air-conditioned theatre venue with a large veranda area and large foyer at the entrance. The seating in the Studio Theatre is built with a steep incline/decline. Care should be taken when moving around the theatre.

Hazards:

- Even-surfaced venue with highly reduced risk of slip or trips
- Power leads are taped down and do not cross pathways
- Sufficient house lighting at the entry/exit at start and end of shows
- Clearly marked illuminated steps in the auditorium
- 'No-go' or 'staff only' zones are clearly signed
- Exit signs are illuminated
- Front of house staff will be in attendance

Disabled Access:

Yes

Toilets:

Adequate toilets to service 1,000 people during peak performance times

First Aider:

Yes, however teacher will be the first responder for their own students

First Aid Kit:

Yes

Fire Extinguishers:

Yes

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