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IN SCHOOL  
SEASON



**HOMUNCULUS**  
THEATRE CO.

## ABOUT US

*Homunculus Theatre Company have 17 years experience delighting and inspiring audiences across Australia and New Zealand. We offer a wide range of In-Schools Workshops & Performances, Artist In Residence Programs, Professional Development for Teachers, Roving Acts and Regional Community Projects.*

We specialise in: Mask Theatre, Commedia Dell'Arte, Traditional & Contemporary Clowning, Physical Comedy, Non Verbal Communication & Mime, Slapstick & Stage Combat, Absurdism, Physical Theatre & Circus, Melodrama, Brecht, Political Satire and Clowns in Shakespeare.

Our mission is to share the human beauty, humor and power of these theatrical styles with young people worldwide.



## 20 LAZZIS IN A HAT

Created by: Clint Bolster



**Duration:**  
50mins + 10mins Q&A



**Suitability:**  
Grades P to 12



**Available Terms:**  
Term 1 - 4

*20 Lazzis in a Hat is pure entertainment! An exciting journey into the heart of Commedia dell'Arte - promising students non-stop fun, comedy and excitement.*

Audiences will discover the origins of Commedia dell'Arte and witness, first hand, its improvised nature. The performance showcases numerous masked stock characters, hilarious burlesque and 20 of Commedia's famous traditional lazzi consisting of verbal asides on current political, social and literary topics, pratfalls and acrobatics.

The performers embody the style with their heart, body and soul; showcasing just how much energy, commitment, comedic flare and incredible technique is needed to bring this tradition to life!

**Essential Learnings:** The Arts (Drama), SOSE (History, Culture)

**Style/Form:** Commedia dell'Arte, Mask, Traditional and Contemporary Clowning, Shakespeare, Melodrama, Visual Theatre, Physical Comedy, Physical Theatre and Circus, Non-verbal Communication and Mime, Improvisation, Slapstick, Political Satire, Parody

**Themes and Contexts:** Creativity, Imagination, Transformation, Play, Audience engagement and interaction, Role and Relationships, Status, Choices and Dramatic Form

### Staging requirements:

- An indoor venue guarantees a better and more intimate performance
- Outdoor venue needs minimum of one wall
- 5m x 5m wide space (no power outlet is required)



*20 Lazzis in a Hat was absolutely brilliant! There is certainly no theatre company who does Commedia Dell'Arte like Homunculus in Australia. The characters were lively and fun, the tricks were hilarious and the finale is certainly one to remember. Our students and staff had so much fun. I guarantee you'll be in stitches after the show!"*

– Dan Teh, Clontarf Beach State High School, QLD



## ABSURD<sup>4</sup>

Created by: Clint Bolster and Lauren O'Rourke



**Duration:**  
50mins + 10mins Q&A



**Suitability:**  
Grades 10 to 12



**Available Terms:**  
Term 1 - 4

*Two Actors. Twelve Characters. Four Absurdist Plays.*

Claude and Tina an internationally acclaimed comedy duo from The United Kingdom Theatre For The Absurd Academy, are facilitating a lecture on 4 adaptations of 4 Absurdist Plays.

- Waiting For Godot by Samuel Beckett
- The Chairs by Eugène Ionesco
- The Dumb Waiter by Harold Pinter
- Rhinoceros by Eugène Ionesco

**Essential Learnings:** The Arts (Drama), English

**Style/Form:** Absurdism, Contemporary Clowning, Physical Theatre and Comedy, Improvisation

**Themes and Contexts:** Creativity and Imagination, Transformation, Roles and Relationships, Play, Audience Engagement and Interaction

**Staging requirements:**

- An indoor venue guarantees a better and more intimate performance
- Outdoor venue needs minimum of one wall
- 5m x 5m wide space (no power outlet is required)

*Thank you to Homunculus Theatre Co., Clint Bolster and Lauren who came this week to perform a show that demonstrated the post-WWII Theatre movement known as Absurdism. Both of you are brilliant clowns! Thanks for the black humour and physical gags too! The Classes 8-12 laughed heartily and enjoyed 'Mandarin' becoming part of the show along with Brendan Hook and Jan Baker-Finch who had starring cameos acting out a scene from an Absurdist drama, The Chairs. However, it was Kai Haywood-Livingstone, armed with his trusty beanie, who stole the show as he improvised with Lauren a scene from Rhinoceros! Well done Kai! What a great drama-packed day of experiences!"*

– Molly Brumm, Drama Teacher, Samford Valley Steiner School, QLD



## THOUGHTS HAVE FEELINGS TOO

Devised by: Ben Cornfoot, Tony Kishawi and Brin Pritchard in collaboration with mental health specialists

Directed by: Tony Kishawi



**Duration:**  
50mins + 10mins Q&A



**Suitability:**  
Grades P to 7



**Available Terms:**  
Term 1 - 4

*Thoughts Have Feelings Too is a gentle and funny performance that shows students how to think positively about the feelings they experience in their day-to-day lives in a primary school environment.*

The students meet two clowns: Sweet 'Clown' and the absent-minded 'Professor'. When the two clowns meet in the Professor's laboratory, they discover that thoughts and emotions are connected. Over four scenes focusing on happiness, sadness, anger and fear, the clowns discover how to recognise each emotion and find simple steps to deal with them. Supporting the Health Curriculum, which promotes positive self-talk and interaction, Thoughts Have Feelings Too works as a tool for schools

to discuss emotions in a positive and light-hearted way. Developed in close consultation with teachers and child health specialists, Thoughts Have Feelings Too premiered for the opening of Mental Health Week celebrations in Brisbane, 2008. Thoughts Have Feelings Too has toured with QLD Arts Council in 2009 and 2010 throughout Regional QLD and Brisbane to sell out performances!

**Essential Learnings:** The Arts (Drama), HPE (Health, Personal Development), English

**Style/Form:** Traditional and Contemporary Clowning, Non-Verbal Communication and Mime

**Themes and Contexts:** Storytelling, Creativity and Imagination, Confidence, Resilience, Self-Esteem, Self-actualisation, Mental Health

**Staging requirements:**

- An indoor venue guarantees a better and more intimate performance
- Outdoor venue needs minimum of one wall
- 5m x 5m wide space (no power outlet is required)

*The best performance that I've ever seen—very entertaining. Very professional. Very talented! Most appropriate material! Great presentation! Impressive!"*

– St Francis Xavier, QLD



## LIFE? IT'S A CIRCUS!

Created and Performed By: The Sault Poets (Nick Cilento and Allie Wilde)



**Duration:**  
50mins + 10mins Q&A



**Suitability:**  
Grades P - 12



**Available Terms:**  
Term 1 - 4

*An energetic theatrical adventure that will have audiences wondering, laughing, gasping, artistically and philosophically inspired and pondering the human condition!*

Through the use of high level physicality, balloons, poetry, balancing chairs, acrobatic antics and clown, these two highly experienced circus theatre performers promise to take you on a thought provoking and thoroughly entertaining journey through the ups and downs of life.

**History of Work:** 2012 and 2013 Artslink/Queensland Arts Council tours of Queensland and Brisbane Primary and Secondary to critical acclaim.

**Essential Learnings:** The Arts (Drama), SOSE (History, Literature, Personal Development/Pastoral Care), English

**Style/Form:** Physical Theatre, Circus and Comedy, Improvisation, Balance, Dance, Poetry, Song

**Themes and Contexts:** Relationships, trust, love, friendship, loss, fear, betrayal, mistakes, empathy, consequences, choices, juggling of commitments, status, fear, courage, risk-taking, comic relief, dramatic form, creativity and imagination

**Staging requirements:**

- A 5m x 5m stage space with a clear overhead space of 3.5m (no obstructions)
- Outdoor venue needs minimum of one wall
- 5m x 5m wide space (no power outlet is required)



“Absolutely brilliant! The light and shade was very interesting... Students were engaged from start to finish. Extremely entertaining. Thank you very, very much!”

– Eidvold SHS, QLD

## THE SPIRIT OF THE MASK

Created by: Tony Kishawi



**Duration:**  
50mins + 10mins Q&A



**Suitability:**  
Grades 7 to 12



**Available Terms:**  
Term 1 - 4

*The Spirit of the Mask is a unique secondary school (7-12) production created by renowned Commedia practitioner Tony Kishawi.*

It is an interactive performance and workshop in one, designed to demonstrate the essential conventions of traditional Commedia as well as comic and mask performance. The focus of the show explores the ways these comic traditions continue to engage audiences.

Characters showcased and explored include the Zanni, the Lovers (Inamorati), Il Capitano, Il Dottore and Pantalone. Commedia conventions demonstrated include lazzi, burle, canovacci, improvisation, audience interaction, status relationships and heightened physicality.

**Essential Learnings:** The Arts (Drama), SOSE (History, Culture and Society, Italian), English

**Style/Form:** Commedia dell'Arte, Mask, Physical Theatre and Comedy, Improvisation

**Themes and Contexts:** Creativity and Imagination, Transformation, Roles and Relationships, Audience Engagement and Interaction

**Staging requirements:**

- An indoor venue guarantees a better and more intimate performance
- Outdoor venue needs minimum of one wall
- 5m x 5m wide space (no power outlet is required)



*A fantastic introduction to Commedia and the use of the mask. Great to have the students actively involved. Very skilled performers: quick witted and experienced improvisers. Excellent production.”*

– Castle Hill High, NSW



## THAT'S ALL FOLKS

Created By: Clint Bolster



**Duration:**  
50mins + 10mins Q&A



**Suitability:**  
Grades P - 12



**Available Terms:**  
Term 1 - 4

*That's All Folks is a five star-spangled vaudeville show of yesteryear!*

From the beautiful to the bizarre, this show features a powerful and charismatic cast of internationally renowned acts from around the world — juggling, acrobalance, bell routines, slapstick, comical routines, musical chairs and more!

The actors skillfully involve the audience, improvising and interacting throughout. The performance is comprised of separate yet interlinked

routines that explore different characters and situations throughout the history of the theatre — looking at both the everyday and the absurd.

The scenes build to a great celebration of life! The show's main message is one of play, fun and celebration. It promises to be exhilarating and mesmerizing for audiences of all ages.

**Essential Learnings:** The Arts (Drama), SOSE (History, Culture), English

**Style/Form:** Vaudeville, Commedia dell'Arte, Mask, Traditional and Contemporary Clowning, Melodrama, Visual Theatre, Physical Theatre, Physical Comedy, Circus, non-verbal communication and Mime, Improvisation and Slapstick

**Themes and Contexts:** Creativity and imagination, awareness, relationships

### Staging requirements:

- An indoor venue guarantees a better and more intimate performance
- Outdoor venue needs minimum of one wall
- 5m x 5m wide space (no power outlet is required)



*5 Stars! – The students loved the performance and thought it was extremely entertaining! They loved the characters and especially enjoyed the references to local areas! It is a fabulous opportunity for students to experience live theatre in a way that they can relax, be themselves and feel that they are just as important as the performers on stage!”* – Phoebe Huttunen, Beaudesert State High School, QLD

## WORKSHOPS



**Available Terms:**  
Term 1 - 4

*We offer workshops tailored to unit outcomes in:*

Commedia dell'Arte, Traditional and Contemporary Clowning, Mask, Physical Comedy, Slapstick and Stage Combat, Physical Theatre and Circus, Visual Theatre, Creating Theatre For Young People, Clowns In Shakespeare, Absurdism, Non-verbal Communication and Mime, Brecht, Epic Theatre, Playwriting and Playbuilding.

We also offer unique Mask workshops in Trestle, Basel, Shauns, Neutral, Grotesque and more.

Please contact us for more details.



*Clint established a contagious energy from the very beginning that had the students dramatically engaged from the moment they entered the workshop. He tailored the activities to inspire, involve and challenge around 40 students of all different learning and physical abilities. It was inspiring to witness students flourish with confidence and feel a sense of ownership or pride in what they had achieved dramatically and more importantly, what they had discovered about themselves within the workshop. This workshop not only extended on what students are studying in class, but based on the immediate feedback from students, it will be an hour and a half that they will cherish in their memories for many years to come.”*

– Samantha Sankowsky, Drama Teacher, Cavendish Road SHS



*There was a freedom of expression and physicalisation, and a real willingness to take risks—a joy to see in students of that age bracket. I have no hesitation recommending Homunculus as wonderful workshop facilitators and performers.”*

– Lauren Cossettini, Curriculum Drama Co-ordinator – Sheldon College, QLD



*The Satire workshop that Clint from Homunculus ran with my Year 11 Drama students was just brilliant!! The activities he lead them through were engaging, useful and heaps of fun. The students were incredibly positive about the experience and have learnt a lot of new ideas and strategies to use in their own work. We will definitely be wanting to work with Homunculus again!”*

– Cass O'Donnell, Arts Faculty, Runcorn State High School, QLD



## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMS



Available Terms:  
Term 1 - 4

*Artist In Residence Programs have the potential to offer students an experience they will remember and treasure far beyond school.*

Our approach is collaborative and student centered. The process is always ridiculously fun and the performance outcomes fantastic. Options range from a day to a full semester and can be tailored to fit your requirements and timetable. Shorter term residencies may involve intensive workshops over a week or several weeks. Longer term

residencies usually involve the collaborative development of an original work and/or full scale production.

Please contact us for more details.

*“By the second day, the mask work had progressed from solo to the ensemble. The students had learned different ways to work within the ensemble and to be a catalyst for change. They experimented with taking control of and driving an idea and then letting the idea drive us.*

*The mask work really helped the students to separate their physicalisation and their facial work and to realise that voice does not have to be the dominant factor in performance. Many of these things may seem obvious but students often struggle with them.*

*Homunculus were able to break through barriers. This was by far the best Artist in Residence we have had in years.”*

– Patrica Kemp, Guilford Young College, TAS



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS



Available Terms:  
Term 1 - 4

*Homunculus can offer teachers interactive, engaging and practical professional development programs in a range of comedic forms to support their work within the curriculum.*

These unique intensives provide an invaluable opportunity to work with internationally acclaimed Physical Performers to extend skill in the foundations of Comedy and other Dramatic forms such as Commedia dell'Arte, Mask, Traditional and Contemporary Clowning, Absurdism.

Slapstick and Stage Combat, Non-Verbal Communication and Mime and Physical Theatre and Circus.

Please contact us for more information.

*“I recently attended a Commedia/Clown workshop run by Clint at The Game Changer Drama Australia and Drama New Zealand Conference. I can honestly say his workshop was the highlight of the entire three-day conference! Clint was enthusiastic, encouraging and approachable from the moment we entered the room. It was clear that he knew his content and was excited to share his experience with us.*

*I was asked to participate in the Shawn mask activity which, with Clint's guidance, gave me confidence and had everyone in stitches. This also allowed me to experience what it's like to be a student and performing in front of others. I was very grateful for that opportunity. Not only did I have a great time in the workshop, I learnt valuable skills that I can add to my repertoire of skills. I am eager to have Clint come to my high school and perform for my students!”*

– Ashlea Ross, Maitland, NSW



## RESOURCES

*Set of seven commedia masks, crafted by Tony Kishawi*

**Purchase price:** \$650.00 plus GST

Free postage within Australia

Commedia dell'Arte masks as a teaching resource.

Crafted by Tony Kishawi, this set of seven Commedia dell'Arte masks are made of rubber latex, hand-painted with airbrushed acrylic and secured with an elastic strap.

The masks adapt to different face sizes.

The masks are extremely durable.

To purchase, email [clint@homunculustheatre.com.au](mailto:clint@homunculustheatre.com.au)



## BOOKING FORM

*Homunculus Theatre Company - In School Program 2020*

### School Details

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Suburb/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Accounts Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

### School Contact

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Direct Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Booking Details

Production: \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop: \_\_\_\_\_

Artist in Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Development: \_\_\_\_\_

School Term: \_\_\_\_\_

Two Preferred Dates and Times: \_\_\_\_\_

Venue: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Year levels attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Homunculus Theatre Company at

**Email:** [clint@homunculustheatre.com.au](mailto:clint@homunculustheatre.com.au)

A representative will be in contact within five working days with a quote.

For more information, see [www.homunculustheatre.com.au](http://www.homunculustheatre.com.au)

Thank you from the team at **Homunculus Theatre Company**

## CONTACT US

For any enquiries, please contact:

### CLINT BOLSTER

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