



# SLEEPING BEAUTY



## ALPHASHOWS Pre-Show Activities

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and give to all teachers BEFORE the show day ]

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## ABOUT THE PRE SHOW ACTIVITIES

Alpha honours and highly respects the work that teachers do with children and we can only hope that our brief visit at your school will help to brighten your day, and help to make learning

and the classroom fun. Teachers have a phenomenal capacity and we look forward to meeting you and your children and being at your school. We believe in peak states, emotional

truthfulness, high energy and enthusiasm in general being the most effective ways of learning, we sincerely hope that the show is useful to you in that and many other ways.

# THE OUTCOME

## ALPHASHOWS' outcome for our performances in schools are:

To provide an intense, memorable, high quality and high impact musical, that engages children the entire time. We hope to give them an experience of what 'theatre' is that encourages further participation in arts and theatre in the future.

To make specific spiritual and physical truths about our world and ourselves available in a metaphorical format to encourage learning at the soul level.

To give performers an opportunity to work in a full time performance based job, and have them give a real experience of 'being a performer' to children by answering questions and generally being happy, accessible, fun and cooperative with children and teachers.

To provide the most outstanding role models of truthful and humble human beings within the stories and in real life.

To provide a launching pad for creativity, writing, drama, music, and fun in the classroom. To create enthusiasm and encourage children to be in the peak state for learning.

To have an artistic theatrical performance that expands a student's soul to enable greater capacity in all learning areas (including learning areas not specifically covered by the shows).

To have an artistic theatrical experience that is of the highest quality possible, as close to a show at a big theatre in a capital city as we can.

To make available our shows to anybody who wishes to invite us for as low a cost as we can.



## ABOUT THE SHOW 'SLEEPING BEAUTY'

### OVER ARCHING VALUES THEME:

# CHOICES AND AWAKENING THE PRINCESS WITHIN

ALPHA'S SLEEPING BEAUTY WEAVES TOGETHER OBVIOUS ELEMENTS FROM THE FAIRYTALE, SO NOBODY IS DISAPPOINTED THAT WE'VE 'MISSED BITS OUT'. HOWEVER, THESE STORIES ONLY WORK IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY IF WE CAN UPDATE GENDER STEREOTYPES, AND PROVIDE NEW LEARNINGS THROUGH THE JOURNEY'S OF THE CHARACTERS.

GIRLS WILL FIND THAT ROSE'S JOURNEY, HAVING BEEN HIDDEN AWAY IN THE FOREST AND UNSURE OF WHO SHE REALLY IS, A WONDERFUL EXAMPLE OF REMAINING TRUE TO YOUR CORE, THE PRINCESS WITHIN ALL WOMEN, AND OF LIVING LIFE WITH LOVE, KINDNESS, AND HOW ULTIMATELY THAT WILL LEAD YOU TO YOUR 'AWAKENING'.

WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT "SLEEPING BEAUTY" MAY NOT SEEM TO APPEAL TO THE BOYS OR EVEN SOME OF THE OLDER GIRLS, SO WE FOCUS MUCH OF THE SHOW ON THE JOURNEY OF THE FARM BOY JAMIE, AND HELPING HIM 'STEP UP' TO SAVE THE PRINCESS.

ALONG THE WAY, THE AUDIENCE ALSO GETS TO OWN A NEW PART OF THEMSELVES AND REALISE THEY TOO, CAN BE IN CONTROL OF THEIR CHOICES, LET GO OF ERROR BASED EMOTIONS OF GRIEF AND ANGER TO ENABLE NATURALLY MORE LOVING CHOICES, AND HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO LIVE LIFE WITH PURPOSE AND CONTRIBUTION.

## SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY



**AURORA** IS BORN AS A MIRACLE TO THE KING AND QUEEN BUT **MALEFICENT**, THE EVIL FAIRY, CASTS A SPELL ON HER THAT MEANS SHE WILL DIE IF SHE PRICKS HER FINGER ON A **SPINNING WHEEL** BEFORE THE SUN SETS ON HER 16<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY.

THE GOOD FAIRY TAKES AURORA INTO HIDING INTO THE FOREST, CALLS HER ROSE, UNTIL MALEFICENT FINDS HER AND **TRICKS** HER INTO PRICKING HER FINGER.

OF COURSE THE GOOD FAIRY HAS MADE IT SO SHE ONLY **FALLS ASLEEP**. **JAMIE**, HER **TRUE LOVE**, MUST FACE SOME PAINFUL EMOTIONS ABOUT HIMSELF, RELEASE THEM, SO THAT HE CAN FIND THE CONFIDENCE TO **CHOOSE** TO RESCUE THE PRINCESS.

ONCE HE DEFEATS MALEFICENT, HE **AWAKENS THE PRINCESS** ONCE AGAIN, BY A KISS FROM HER TRUE LOVE. THE **PROPHECY IS FULFILLED**, THE KINGDOM IS SAVED!

## How the show addresses our outcomes:

The show is loud, entertaining and lots happening. It also has different parts that will appeal differently to various age groups and genders – allowing 'down time' for some as well. Children seeing this show will want to see more.

Sleeping Beauty contains some powerful truths about releasing angry and grief-based emotions, which are the only reason that people make bad choices in life. With this release occurring for the main character, the audience can learn what it takes to make more loving and truthful choices for themselves and others, thus transforming their soul condition. The story uses the metaphor of the awakening princess and the farm boy becoming a hero to illustrate this journey that is available to all of us.

The cast contains 3 boys and 3 girls, who play characters that are energetic, and appeal to both genders through humour and strength, and a bit of silliness.

The actors chosen represent people who are talented and professional in their field. They play characters that illustrate great ways to learn and live, who play full out and make the most of the events that happen to them.

The fairytale nature of the show will give some great lead in to that unit at Primary School, as well as looking at literacy and story telling in general, the theatre experience etc. Because the shows always contain great anchors for positive emotional states, these can be used back in the classroom to encourage full participation, humility, love and truth, which will always foster higher levels of learning.

As the students implement the ideas in the show (specifically about releasing negative emotions by fully experiencing them, to therefore make better choices), it will have a run on effect on other learning areas which will have a positive impact on every area of their schooling life.

The lights and sound in our shows are the top of the range, and we spend months creating and painting the sets, and the full costumes etc. With 6 cast, it makes what we can set up in your school quite remarkable in a short time – the final result will be as close as you can get to a theatre, right in your school – especially if you have a dark hall!

After the show you will have an opportunity to book one of our other shows. Please consider doing so as 'stacking' the shows every year has a cumulative effect on the soul condition of students that is hard to measure. By having it only once or every second year, this positive effect on your students (and entire school community) is very much lessened. We work hard to ensure our shows all tour every year, at different times, so there's always a show for you to book for the following year. We suggest not booking more than 1 show a year, as the stacking effect seems to be maximised when it is an annual visit.

The content is delivered through a wide range of engaging and accessible dramatic techniques: including, of course, pantomime-styled sequences, physical comedy, audience interaction in the form of questions, witty dialogue with humour that appeals to children (including the occasional bit of toilet humour!), stylised movement, choreography, modern music interweaved in the story, dramatic lighting and effects, high quality sound and sound effects, magnificent costumes and big realistic sets.

# PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES



## Fairy Tales, Folk Tales and other Stories

**Learning Area:** Literacy

**Outcome:** To create an understanding of the origins of fairytales and classic stories, and to dispel myths about the common held beliefs about where these stories originated from. To connect children in with the archetypal nature of these stories to ensure they have a strong connection to the show in advance. To explore stories from different cultures

**Materials:** Discussion in classroom and the internet

### Information:

Fairy tale, or wonder tale, is a kind of folktale or fable. In these stories we meet witches and queens, giants and elves, princes, dragons, talking animals, ogres, princesses, and sometimes even fairies. Marvellous and magical things happen to characters in fairy tales. A boy may become a bird. A princess may sleep for a hundred years. Objects too can be enchanted — mirrors talk, pumpkins become carriages, and a lamp may be home to a genie.

The oldest fairy tales were told and retold for generations before they were written down. French fairy tales, like Sleeping Beauty were the first to be collected and written down, but now we can read fairy tales from almost any culture. When these stories were studied together, something amazing was discovered. From countries as distant and different as Egypt and Iceland similar fairy tales are told. Both Egypt and Iceland have "Cinderella" stories, as do China, England, Korea, Siberia, France, and Vietnam; and the list doesn't stop there. There may be a thousand versions of the Cinderella story, each with a unique telling which carries cultural information about the time and place the story was told. One thing is for sure; people everywhere like stories in which truth prevails over deception, generosity is ultimately rewarded, hard work overcomes obstacles, and love, mercy and kindness are the greatest powers of all.

**ACTIVITY:** READ OLD FOLK STORIES OR FAIRY TALES AND THEN ASK CHILDREN TO RETELL THEM IN A MODERN SETTING.

### Interesting Web Addresses Relating to Fairy Tales, Folk Tales and other Stories:

Alpha Shows Website

<http://www.alphashows.com.au>

Interactive Grimm Brothers Website

<http://www.grimmfairytales.com/en/main>

Aesop's Fables

<http://www.umass.edu/aesop>

Australian Aboriginal Dreamtime Stories

<http://www.dreamtime.net.au/dreaming/storylist.htm>

Native American stories

<http://www.ilhawaii.net/~stony/loreindx.html>



## Read & discuss the fairytale of 'Sleeping Beauty'

It is a very ancient story, with many versions, some completely inappropriate for children! Dealing with topics such as abuse and all sorts of horrible things – until the Brothers Grimm rewrote it into a children's version. Our version stems from this version but obviously bringing Alpha's well-loved style to the classic – with new characters, a lot of fun and music.

# SLEEPING BEAUTY

BY THE BROTHERS GRIMM

A long time ago there were a king and queen who said every day, "Ah, if only we had a child," but they never had one.

But it happened that once when the queen was bathing, a frog crept out of the water on to the land, and said to her, "Your wish shall be fulfilled, before a year has gone by, you shall have a daughter."

What the frog had said came true, and the queen had a little girl who was so pretty that the king could not contain himself for joy, and ordered a great feast. He invited not only his kindred, friends and acquaintances, but also the wise women, in order that they might be kind and well-disposed towards the child. There were thirteen of them in his kingdom, but, as he had only twelve golden plates for them to eat out of, one of them had to be left at home.

The feast was held with all manner of splendor and when it came to an end the wise women bestowed their magic gifts upon the baby - one gave virtue, another beauty, a third riches, and so on with everything in the world that one can wish for.

When eleven of them had made their promises, suddenly the thirteenth came in. She wished to avenge herself for not having been invited, and without greeting, or even looking at anyone, she cried with a loud voice, "The king's daughter shall in her fifteenth year prick herself with a spindle, and fall down dead." And, without saying a word more, she turned round and left the room.

They were all shocked, but the twelfth, whose good wish still remained unspoken, came forward, and as she could not undo the evil sentence, but only soften it, she said, it shall not be death, but a deep sleep of a hundred years, into which the princess shall fall.

The king, who would fain keep his dear child from the misfortune, gave orders that every spindle in the whole kingdom should be burnt. Meanwhile the gifts of the wise women were plenteously fulfilled on the young girl, for she was so beautiful, modest, good-natured, and wise, that everyone who saw her was bound to love her.

It happened that on the very day when she was fifteen years old, the king and queen were not at home, and the maiden was left in the palace quite alone. So she went round into all sorts of places, looked into rooms and bed-chambers just as she liked, and at last came to an old tower. She climbed up the narrow winding-staircase, and reached a little door. A rusty key was in the lock, and when she turned it the door sprang open, and there in a little room sat an old woman with a spindle, busily spinning her flax.

"Good day, old mother," said the king's daughter, "what are you doing there?"

"I am spinning," said the old woman, and nodded her head.

"What sort of thing is that, that rattles round so merrily," said the girl, and she took the spindle and wanted to spin too. But scarcely had she touched the spindle when the magic decree was fulfilled, and she pricked her finger with it.

And, in the very moment when she felt the prick, she fell down upon the bed that stood there, and lay in a deep sleep. And this sleep extended over the whole palace, the king and queen who had just come home, and had entered the great hall, began to go to sleep, and the whole of the court with them. The horses, too, went to sleep in the stable, the dogs in the yard, the pigeons upon the roof, the flies on the wall, even the fire that was flaming on the hearth became quiet and slept, the roast meat left off frizzling, and the cook, who was just going to pull the hair of the scullery boy, because he had forgotten something, let him go, and went to sleep. And the wind fell, and on the trees before the castle not a leaf moved again.

But round about the castle there began to grow a hedge of thorns, which every year became higher, and at last grew close up round the castle and all over it, so that there was nothing of it to be seen, not even the flag upon the roof. But the story of the beautiful sleeping briar-rose, for so the princess was named, went about the country, so that from time to time kings' sons came and tried to get through the thorny hedge into the castle. But they found it impossible, for the thorns held fast together, as if they had hands, and the youths were caught in them, could not get loose again, and died a miserable death.

After long, long years a king's son came again to that country, and heard an old man talking about the thorn-hedge, and that a castle was said to stand behind it in which a wonderfully beautiful princess, named briar-rose, had been asleep for a hundred years, and that the king and queen and the whole court were asleep likewise. He had heard, too, from his grandfather, that many kings, sons had already come, and had tried to get through the thorny hedge, but they had remained sticking fast in it, and had died a pitiful death.

Then the youth said, "I am not afraid, I will go and see the beautiful briar-rose." The good old man might dissuade him as he would, he did not listen to his words.

But by this time the hundred years had just passed, and the day had come when briar-rose was to awake again. When the king's son came near to the thorn-hedge, it was nothing but large and beautiful flowers, which parted from each other of their own accord, and let him pass unhurt, then they closed again behind him like a hedge. In the castle yard he saw the horses and the spotted hounds lying asleep, on the roof sat the pigeons with their heads under their wings. And when he entered the house, the flies were asleep upon the wall, the cook in the kitchen was still holding out his hand to seize the boy, and the maid was sitting by the black hen which she was going to pluck.

He went on farther, and in the great hall he saw the whole of the court lying asleep, and up by the throne lay the king and queen. Then he went on still farther, and all was so quiet that a breath could be heard, and at last he came to the tower, and opened the door into the little room where briar-rose was sleeping.

There she lay, so beautiful that he could not turn his eyes away, and he stooped down and gave her a kiss. But as soon as he kissed her, briar-rose opened her eyes and awoke, and looked at him quite sweetly.

Then they went down together, and the king awoke, and the queen, and the whole court, and looked at each other in great astonishment. And the horses in the courtyard stood up and shook themselves, the hounds jumped up and wagged their tails, the pigeons upon the roof pulled out their heads from under their wings, looked round, and flew into the open country, the flies on the wall crept again, the fire in the kitchen burned up and flickered and cooked the meat, the joint began to turn and sizzle again, and the cook gave the boy such a box on the ear that he screamed, and the maid finished plucking the fowl.

And then the marriage of the king's son with briar-rose was celebrated with all splendor, and they lived contented to the end of their days.



## Question Time

### Learning Area:

Literacy / Theatre / Music / Performing Arts / Science & Technology / Art / Values Education

**Outcome:** To prepare the students for asking quality questions after the show and in life.

**Materials:** Discussion in classroom and writing

### Information:

At the end of each show, when time permits, Alpha's performers come back on stage to give the children an opportunity to ask questions.

If you have specific children who did not get their questions answered, you are more than welcome to bring them to us whilst we are packing up, to talk to us. We welcome and encourage the performers to have the maximum possible contact time with students. We are also very happy to provide autographs and personal messages to each child.

You may have had actors in your school before who answer questions after their performance.

Here is how we do it differently:

- ◆ It is almost 'part of the show'.
- ◆ We have a voiceover introduction and 'pump-up' music before the actors come back out on stage. It is always important that children are in a 'peak state' to ask and answer questions
- ◆ The actors will come out in costume, but as 'themselves' (not in character). They will remain energised and enthusiastic, rather than showing fatigue (even if the Actors themselves are fatigued at all)



**Activity:**

Get the students to brainstorm various question 'areas'. There are multiple types of questions to ask that coincide with the possible Learning Areas above. Then brainstorm 1 or 2 great questions in each area.

You may want to also run the 'sensory acuity' activity below.

It's important to reinforce the purpose of the question time. Ask them what they think their focus should be during the time. If they ask a question that is silly, the purpose of that would be to make people laugh. If they ask a question where the whole audience finds out some really great valuable information, the purpose is to provide a worthwhile and beneficial experience for the whole audience. We reward 'clever questions' so the more preparation, the more reward!

You can then follow up with a discussion about how a great truth in life is the importance of questions and how they affect our lives.

## **The quality of life is in direct proportion to the quality of the questions we ask, especially those we ask on a consistent basis**

So mastering this area of our life is imperative. If we're always asking a question like 'why do I always get it wrong', our brain comes up with an answer ('cause you're an idiot!'). If we ask quality questions like, 'How can I do my best and have fun at the same time?' you'll always come up with a better answer!

### EXAMPLES of QUESTION AREAS POSSIBLE TO ASK US ABOUT:

- ◆ So **Literacy questions** are about the story, how we told it, the script, the humour, our version of the story and our choices we made.
- ◆ **Theatre questions** are about the show, bringing theatre into a school etc.
- ◆ **Music questions** are about our song selections, the live singing, how we learnt to sing etc.
- ◆ **Performing Arts questions** are about acting, role playing, creating a character, character choices, how we got cast, auditions, the experience of being an actor.
- ◆ **Science & technology questions** are about the set, how we built them, the construction methods we used, how long it took, how we planned to do it, what skills were needed etc.
- ◆ **Art questions** are about the costumes and the set painting.
- ◆ **Values Education questions** are about the embedded messages in the show, the role models of the performers and what we hoped the children learnt during the show about how to live life with passion, enthusiasm and success.

Below are some examples of good questions and also some examples of questions we've received in the past (some not so good!). Great questions (ones where we'll answer something really useful to the experience) are marked with an \*



### Rehearsals and Preparation

- \*How long does it take to rehearse?
- Where do you rehearse the show?
- \*Who makes up the dances?
- \*Who writes the shows?
- Was it hard to learn your lines?

### The Set-up

- \*How long does it take to set the set up?
- \*Who made/painted the sets?
- What's behind the set?
- Where did you get the costumes?
- How do you get changed so quickly?
- \*Where does the smoke come from?
- \*How do the lights/music/sound work?
- Were the swords real?

### Sleeping Beauty Specific

- Why is it different to the Disney movie?
- Why were there extra characters?
- \*\*Why was Maleficent so mean?
- How did the magic work?
- \*\*Why did we spend so much time helping Jamie?
- \*What was the metaphor behind Rose falling asleep?
- Can you go over the message again in the bit where we all stood up? Why did we stand up?
- Why are we always "saying 'yes' "?
- \*\*\*What sort of Values were in the show?

### The Company

- \*\*What other shows does Alpha do?
- How many shows have you done?
- \*Which show are you doing next year?
- \*\*\*Why do you do shows like this in schools?
- Whose idea was it to perform in schools?
- \*Do you perform anywhere in the school holidays?

### The Performers

- \*How did you all get to be in the show?
- \*What acting training have you done?
- \*Where/How did you learn to dance/sing?
- How old are you?
- \*How does it feel to be an actor?
- \*Do you get scared/nervous?
- Have you ever been on TV?
- \*What other shows have you been in?
- \*What is your favourite thing about performing?
- What is your favourite colour?
- What is your hair like?

Please note: "Question Time" sessions are an extra value in addition to the show your school has purchased from Alpha, provided free of charge – as a result, we cannot guarantee that we will have time – especially if we have another school to go to afterwards, or if it is already too close to the end of your school day. If this is the case, please feel free to allow children to speak to the performers as they pack up.

## Alpha-Writing



**Learning Area:** Literacy

**Outcome:** To engage children in passionate creative writing in response to the Alpha Show.

**Materials:** Writing materials

**Information:** Alpha shows can inspire much enthusiasm and creativity. Harness this energy to create amazing creative writing!

**Activity:**

**For K-2:**

Storytelling. Seat them in a circle and using one of our story starters below, begin the story. One by one in the circle, the children can contribute a line to the story, each taking the story in their own crazy direction.

- ie.
- 1) Once there was a rabbit who loved to dance.
  - 2) He would dance all around his little house.
  - 3) Then he fell and broke his leg!
  - 4) So he couldn't dance any more.
  - 5) He was so sad that his friend, the frog, wanted to cheer him up.
  - 6) He said, "Why don't we try doing something different? What about knitting?" and so on and so on.)

**For Gr 3-4:**

Choose a character and write an entry in their diary



## Alpha-Writing (continued...)



### For Gr 5-6

1. Write a newspaper article about the events of the story, 'Extra Extra, princess falls asleep for 100 years!' "Australia's most wanted - Evil Witch Maleficent"
2. Write your own Fairytale, play or pantomime, brainstorm the elements of these stories ie  
Characters: an evil magical person, a good magical person, a mother, a wolf, a prince, a princess, a cow, a king, a narrator, a grandmother, a boy/girl, a fairy, a goblin, a bossy person  
Place: a castle, a dark wood, a cottage, a cloud in the sky, up a tree, in the city,  
Events: falling asleep, getting married, running away, meeting a magical creature, finding treasure  
Then put it all together! Remember the happy ending!
3. Choose from one of our 'Story Starters' to create their own fairy tale.

### Story Starters:

- ◆ Once upon a time, in a deep dark wood, in a teeny tiny cottage with a straw roof, lived a big rat. His name was Claude.
- ◆ Deep, deep down in the ocean as I was minding my own business...
- ◆ Way back in the back hills where even the ants didn't go, I remember...
- ◆ In old grandmother's trunk there was a ...
- ◆ There once was a rabbit who loved to dance
- ◆ My grandmother used to tell me home is where the heart is. I did not understand what she meant by that until one stormy night when ...
- ◆ Long ago, in a faraway place, there was a land filled with wonder. In this fantastic place there was a little girl. She was very special, for she had magic...
- ◆ It started out just like any other school day. I finished the last soggy pieces of cereal from my bowl full of milk. (I always pour too much!) But as I grabbed my coat and ran out the door, I couldn't believe my eyes!





## Alpha Shows Performance Style

Learning Area: Literacy / Performing Arts / Theatre



**Outcome:** To develop an understanding of Alpha's traditions, our conventions and how to be an ideal audience to enrich the experience of an Alpha Show. **This section is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for all teachers to use with all students to ensure maximum value.**

**Information:** Alpha Shows allow the students to be free and to yell out and talk to the characters.

Alpha's versions of stories are usually significantly different than anything they have seen before. Explore the value of doing this with your children, and how using theatre and our special format of theatre helps bring new life to classic stories.

### Energy and Pace

You may like to look at how the energy and pace of the show varied considerably, to parts with only dialogue, to lots of songs, to slow bits, to parts where a LOT was happening all at once... this is all part of the theatre experience and also necessary for children to have parts where they can tune out for a moment and chat to each other, and to let it integrate into their subconscious, and take a break! The structure of the shows is all done on purpose. Generally Alpha shows are high energy and pace, to ensure children don't get bored. They are far more impatient than an adult audience, as they pick up on the crux of a scene immediately and don't always need all the details.

**Therefore, we always speak fast, move each scene along quickly etc (which can sometimes be too fast for adults!).**

HOWEVER, you could prep your children in advance to ensure they are listening at the right times, and not taking advantage of the style of the show which allows them essentially to do what they like. You can use the following activity for this purpose or your own way of teaching awareness of when to listen and when to actively participate. **This is up to you – as the actors will not 'punish' children for being loud and having fun during the show.** If you think they should listen, prepare them to do so in advance (not at the show by shooshing as this is too distracting)

### Activity: Screaming & Listening

To get an idea of what an Alpha show is like

Ask a simple question, like, 'do you think Arthur can do it?'. Prepare them in advance, to yell yes at the tops of their voices, scream, do 'wohoo's' or whatever else. And then visibly and physically 'cut' them, and see how fast they can stop and listen again. As soon as you 'cut' them, tell them some hard to remember information, and test to see who remembered it. This is a great game for preparing them for what an Alpha show is like and how they'll be yelling out at some points, and listening at others.

### Activity: Sensory Acuity Game

You should also promote the skill of 'sensory acuity' so they know when it is NOT time to 'yell out'! Sensory acuity is a useful skill in all areas of life!

You could play a game where children pair up and one tells a story and the other, without speaking, gives the storyteller cues about what they're feeling, whether they like the story or hate it, or other things. You, as the teacher/facilitator, can come round holding up cards behind the storyteller like "You need to go to the toilet" to tell the non-talker what to 'act out'. After it's over you can see how much the storyteller picked up about the other person, by using their skills of 'Sensory Acuity'.

## Alpha's audience participation elements

Learning Area: Literacy / Performing Arts / Theatre



**Outcome:** To become very familiar with the specific chances to participate in the show

### **Information:**

Alpha Shows borrow from the pantomime genre many traditions which increase the level of audience participation eg. “He’s behind you” and “Ohhh no you’re not” etc. as well as ‘booing the villain’. The cliché’s and most traditions of pantomime are always honoured by Alpha shows – and we also have created new ways for an audience to interact with us, most specifically, with the ‘closed eye processes’ in the show as well as other fun creations we’ve had over the years.



Discuss how we use this as a tool to create fun in stories in ways not possible with other formats, especially non-live formats (you wouldn’t bother booing a villain in a TV show, as they can’t hear you! How boring is that!). Vocal participation by children is important in our shows, and whilst our stories will structure it and educate how it works during the show in the best way possible, initially children may not realise they can yell out – especially if your group is very well behaved, it may be a new experience for them!

You can encourage and let them know it is part of the experience to join in with the singing, dancing, the booing and being a part of the story by answering questions – we’ll remind them during the show as well.

On the other hand, some children will take the opportunity too far, and whilst our shows are structured in the best way possible to control over-the-top participation, you may like to also discuss how your children should recognise when to yell-out and when not to. As mentioned, it’s a great skill to learn for life in general! The activity above will help with this.

If you want to know more about the history of pantomime, visit this website. Note however, that Alpha shows are not really a pantomime, we just borrow a few techniques from the genre. We discourage the use of the word ‘pantomime’ in conjunction with the show.

Visit the following website for more info on pantomime genre:  
<http://www.its-behind-you.com/history.html>



## ACTIVITY: Alpha's audience participation elements



You can practice all the different Alpha traditions in class. It makes the show extra fun if children have a few clichés that they can look for and really get excited about doing. Try these out:

1. **“Oh no you’re not”**. At some stage during the show, the villain will ask a question like “I am the most gorgeous beauty in the entire world, aren’t I boys and girls?”. The audience’s response should be “Oh no you’re not!”. The villain then responds with “Oh yes I am”, audience with “Oh no you’re not”, etc. It repeats 3 times at which point the story moves on. Not every show uses this as it can drag on a bit.
2. **“He’s Behind You”**. This is where a character is looking for another character and can’t find them, but the audience CAN see the other character. At one point, the other character will be behind them, and will ask “Where is he boys and girls?” At this point, the audience should respond with “He’s behind you!”
3. **“BOOING THE VILLAIN”**. Whilst we agree that ‘booing’ isn’t something that should be encouraged in normal day to day life, it is a time honoured tradition and we believe we should keep it. It is also a brilliant way for the audience to band together in opposition to what the villain represents – ie. nastiness, selfishness and being mean! Remember to remind the children to be aware of when to stop ‘booing’ so that the story can continue. In King Arthur, there is NO villain to begin with. So booing will not be necessary for most of it, until they start acting like a villain (which will be obvious). Talk to your students about this.
4. **Answering Questions**. In addition, the audience will help the characters along the way with anything from simple ‘yes’s’ to sometimes more involved answers or repeating things. It will usually seem like the audience is actually affecting the action (sometimes they really are!). It’s great when an audience altogether really believes this so try to explain how they are part of the story and can involve themselves.
5. **“Say Yes!”**. During all of our shows, we have the audience repeating phrases or otherwise engaging in helping one of the characters ‘grow’ and expand on the lesson of the story. Whilst doing this, the audience learns new things about themselves and the world. It will usually involve ‘standing up’ as an audience. Encourage them to play full out during these sequences, as these sequences are the chance to have the most beneficial experience from our show, the chance to become ‘stronger’ or ‘more awesome’ in every way – surely something all children are interested in deep down. It will often involve STANDING TALL, strong and focussed (ie. Not talking, and not fooling around with their friends), Saying “YES” in a really powerful and strong way, squeezing their fist or putting their hand on their heart, and repeating a certain personal development phrase like “All I need is within me now” (different for every show). It’s important for teachers to participate in these sequences too, and encourage all students to stand up and do it too. If you know of certain students who are unlikely to participate, have them seated at the sides near you, and ensure they are not distracting or discouraging other students to get the value out of the process.



## Important notes on participation



WE LOVE THE AUDIENCE TO PARTICIPATE AS SPECIFIED ABOVE, AND USUALLY HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH FULL PARTICIPATION FROM KINDER STUDENTS RIGHT THROUGH TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. WE ALSO ENCOURAGE FULL PARTICIPATION AT ALL TIMES DURING THE SHOW. WE LOVE THE RANDOM CALL OUTS FROM THE AUDIENCE. IT KEEPS US ON OUR TOES AND HELPS US GROW AS PERFORMERS AS WELL!

IF IT'S ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDABLE AND FEASIBLE, THE ACTORS WILL ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS WHAT WAS SAID AND GO WITH IT, MUCH TO EVERYONE'S AMUSEMENT! SO AGAIN, AN IMPORTANT POINT – AS LONG AS A CHILD ISN'T BEING OBSCENE, IF THEY YELL OUT RANDOM STUFF, YOU CAN USUALLY ENJOY THE ACTORS RESPONDING WITH THAT AND HAVING SOME FUN.

PLEASE DON'T TELL THEM TO SHOOSH AS IT SPOILS IT FOR THEM AND WE DON'T GET A CHANCE TO PLAY WITH THEM IN A UNIQUE WAY FOR YOU! IT ALSO GENERATES A NEGATIVE ANCHOR TO PARTICIPATING IN 'THEATRE'.

**ALTHOUGH REMEMBER TO WATCH FOR CHILDREN TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TOO FAR AND SPOILING THE PLOT AND NON-PARTICIPATIVE MOMENTS. THIS MAY REQUIRE THAT YOU MOVE CHILDREN OR YES, EVEN SHOOSH THEM SURREPTITIOUSLY.**

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE CAST BY ENSURING CHILDREN ARE GENERALLY BEING WELL BEHAVED & POLITE**



## 'Fly Away' final  song



### Learning Area: Music

**Outcome:** To increase skills in performance, singing and music. To enhance the show by teaching and learning Alpha's final  song so that everyone can join in at the end with every Alpha Show.

### Information:

The final song in the show is just great to join in with, so it's up to you how much you decide to take advantage of this special event visiting your school. The song is our original song first used in 2009, so once we've performed it for a while you'll start to know it. You can speed this process up by practicing in class.

### Activity:

Learn or listen to the song "Fly Away" by Alpha Shows – it's Alpha's finale for all our shows. You could even choreograph a dance to the song and join in at the end. We punch our fists in the air for the 'Say Yes' parts. You can download off our website the song in the Downloads section, and/or it may be included in your Touring Pack. <http://www.alphashows.com.au/downloads/>

The lyrics are on the next page.

For an advanced activity, have your children go to:

<http://www.alphashows.com.au/curriculum/> or <http://www.alphashows.com.au/theatre-in-education/>

And analyse the curriculum content of the shows as shown on the curriculum page above. Then look at the lyrics, and ask the following questions:

1. What do you notice about all the lyrics?
2. This was Alpha's first song we wrote entirely fresh (without using inspiration of another song and backing track etc). In the past we have not done this, as we wanted the audience to always recognise and automatically be able to sing along with every song in the show. Do you think having an original song as our finale will work? Why?
3. Go through the lyrics and match up each one to one of the values messages listed on the curriculum web page on our website. Each core value relates to 1 particular show, but they also cross over. Some lyrics are just simply lyrical and musical or related to fun as well, or just a general positive message.
4. Now that you've matched up the lyrics with each value, do you think the song is successful in covering all of the shows core messages and wrapping them up nicely?
5. Why do you think we used the words "SAY YES" repeatedly throughout the song in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choruses? What is the relevance of getting an audience to say YES? This was very similar to the old song we used, do you remember what word we used there (based on the S Club 7 song we borrowed for our finale). Do you think SAY YES is a better message? Why?
6. Learn the chorus and choreograph a dance, and perform it for your class. If you have access to the real song, download it and learn it properly. We look forward to seeing you join in with us at the end of the show!

# FLY AWAY – ALPHA SHOWS

Lyrics by Toby Wilkins, Ben Jackson & Katja Glieson

Music by Toby Wilkins

Arranged & Produced by Ben Jackson

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When you're feeling blue  
I'll be there to see you through  
You've got a friend in me  
Because I've got a friend in you  
And if you think you've lost your way  
Don't worry cause I'm here to stay  
And we will laugh our cares away

Tomorrow is a brand new day  
If you look inside you'll see  
The way to let yourself be free  
With life before us,  
All part of one great chorus

If you look inside your heart  
You'll see that you and me  
Are destined for the start of  
something wonderful

And so we'll fly  
Fly Away Now  
Yes we'll fly  
It's a brand new day now  
We'll fly where our hearts take us  
Nobody's gonna make us  
Come back down  
We'll Fly away now  
To the ground  
I can say now  
That if you be you and I'll be me  
There's nothing that we can't be

You have got the strength  
To make a brand new day  
When you leave the past behind  
you  
There'll be nothing in your way

There's something out there just  
for you  
That's where you'll find your  
hopes come true

There's so much more that we  
can do  
But we will get each other  
through

If you feel that you may fall  
Then I'll help you, you'll help us  
all

Follow all your hopes and  
dreams

Have the courage to believe

And say YES!  
Fly away now

SAY YES!

To a brand new day now  
You create your path  
Choose to follow your own heart

And say YES!  
Fly away now  
SAY YES!

To all that comes your way now  
Find the light so you can see  
Let your heart shine bright and  
free

Together we are one  
On our journey to what we'll  
become

We'll all play our part

You'll be my hero and I'll be your  
heart

And we'll find

When it's time  
Say YES!  
Be all you can be  
Say YES!  
And stand tall with me  
Say YES!  
Look inside of you  
Say YES!  
Then see what you can do

And say YES!  
Fly away now  
SAY YES!  
To a brand new day  
now

You create your path  
Choose to follow  
your own heart

And say YES!

Fly away now

SAY YES!

To all that comes  
your way now

Find the light so you  
can see

Let your heart shine  
bright and free  
AND SAY YES!  
(repeat chorus)