

The Storytellers

A Readers Theatre program

Location: QCWA Hall Mermaid Beach

Class size: 9

Cost: \$532.00 per person

Duration: 8 weeks 90min class

AGES:
12 - 15

Presented by:
Nathan Schulz



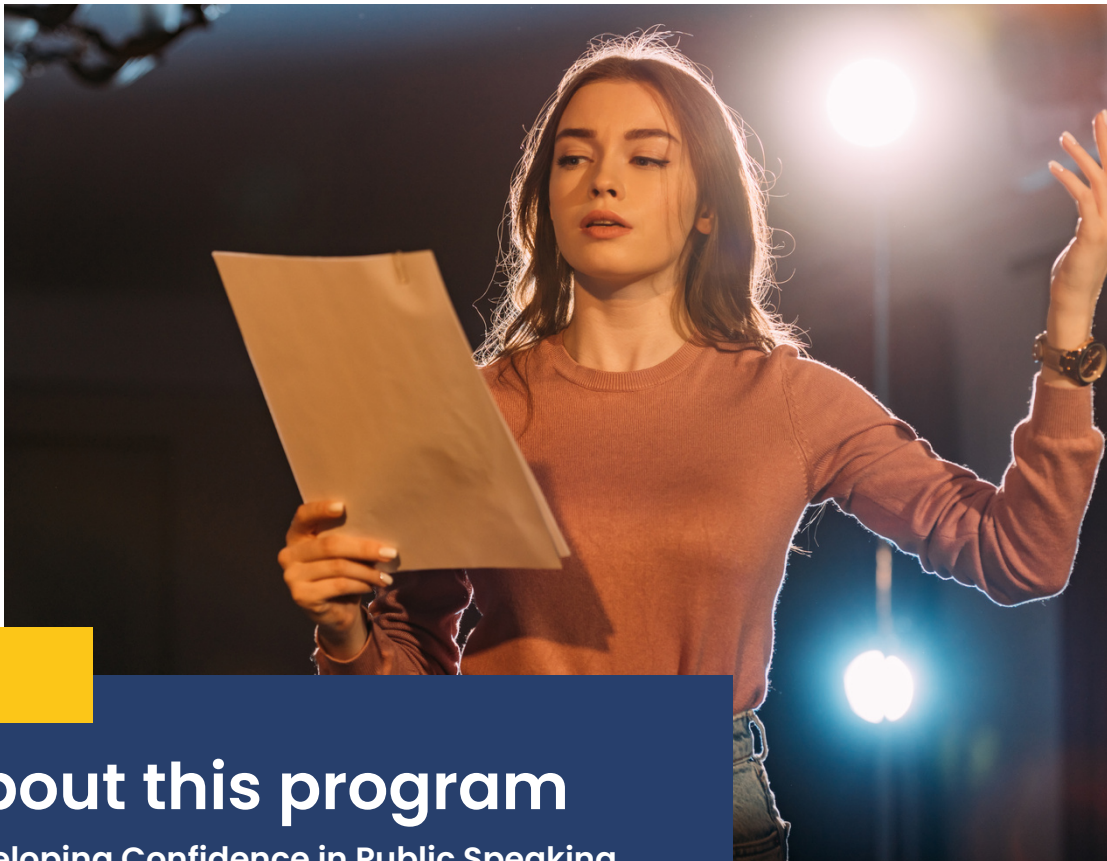


What is Readers Theatre

Readers theatre is a one-of-a-kind method of sharing stories, poems, plays, and novels with others. By using scripts, characterisation through voice and expression, and minimal action and settings, readers can bring the story to life in their own unique way.

The primary aim of readers theatre is to engage listeners in recreating the story in their own mind, promoting reading skills, public speaking, and teamwork, especially among young readers. This approach is often used in educational settings to foster literacy and love for literature.

The best part? You don't have to be a natural-born performer to give readers theatre a try - all you need is a love for reading, imagination, and the ability to read.



About this program

Developing Confidence in Public Speaking and Storytelling

The Storytellers program is an ideal resource for young adults aged 12 to 16 seeking to better their public speaking and storytelling talents. The program delivers intimate classes that allow individuals to explore their enthusiasm for literature and theatre. While enhancing their storytelling skills, students will also learn to create sound effects and participate in basic games, making the storytelling experience more interactive and immersive.

With each class 90min long this an innovative approach to storytelling, with participants recording their stories during Terms One and Two, which will be available on The Drama Merchant website through a Pay What You Think Scheme for a limited period. These stories will later be aired for free on The Radioplay Hour, enabling students to improve their confidence and share their newfound storytelling expertise with a wider audience.

Finally, during Terms 3 and 4, participants can display their storytelling abilities in two live performances. It is a phenomenal opportunity for them to share their passion for literature while refining their public speaking and storytelling skills.



The Benefits of Smaller Class Sizes.

Creating a class size of only three to 9 participants (depending on the story) can create a nurturing environment that fosters confidence in public speaking, reading aloud, and team building. These skills serve as a foundation for future presentations.

Previous attempts to organize classes for larger groups have proven challenging. Sadly, in some cases, students or parents failed to participate, which ultimately hindered the entire team's progress.

By establishing a minimum of three or 9 students per class, it promotes a team-oriented mindset. This emphasizes the importance of each participant's contribution in bringing the story to life and leads to a satisfying final product.



Who will host the class?

Nathan Schulz

For me, the term "teacher" doesn't quite fit. Instead, I prefer to call myself a creative mentor. As someone who struggled with dyslexia, pursuing a traditional career in education wasn't feasible due to limited resources. That's why I chose to pursue a different path.

My journey began in the Gold Coast Community Theatre Scene, where I worked as an actor and director under various mentors between 1998 and 2016. From there, I ventured into the world of independent theatre, participating in the Anywhere Festival in Brisbane, as well as the Melbourne and Adelaide Fringe Festivals between 2016 and 2017 eventually becoming The Drama Merchant.

Through my experiences, I discovered how to think outside the box, build my confidence and overcome my learning disability. Today, I'm proud to be a creative mentor who helps others gain confidence in their abilities and explore their own creativity.

TOAD'S TALE

KENNETH GRAHAME



Term 1

"The Wind in the Willows" Storytelling Program: A Unique Learning Experience

This term's storytelling program will take inspiration from Kenneth Grahame's classic book, "The Wind in the Willows". The program will consist of three groups, each having three members, who will narrate three independent chapters about Mr. Toad. This is an excellent introduction to Grahame's beloved book. In addition to being narrators, students will also voice Ratty, Mole, and Mr. Toad in the three complete chapters from the classic tale: The Open Road, Mr. Toad, and Toad's Adventure.

The storytelling experience will be enhanced by teaching students how to create sound effects. Each group will be responsible for producing sound effects for the other groups. This will add an extra layer of excitement to the storytelling experience and allow participants to bring the stories to life. At the end of the term, the stories will be recorded and available on The Drama Merchant website through a Pay What You Think Scheme for a limited time. Later on, the stories will be heard for free on The Radioplay Hour, providing a chance for individuals to gain confidence and share their newfound storytelling skills with a broader audience.

Script sample

Story 1. The Open Road

1.Narrator & Mole Readers:
2. Narrator & Mr. Toad 3.Narrator & Ratty

3.The Rat only snorted and thrust his hands deep into his pockets, remaining where he was.

2.It was indeed very compact and comfortable. Little sleeping bunks—a little table that folded up against the wall—a cooking-stove, lockers, book-shelves, a bird-cage with a bird in it; and pots, pans, jugs, and kettles of every size and variety.

2."All complete!"

1. said the Toad triumphantly, pulling open a locker.

SFX: DOOR OPENS

2."You see—biscuits, potted lobster, sardines—everything you can possibly want. Soda-water here —baccy there—letter-paper, bacon, jam, cards, and dominoes—you'll find,"

3. he continued, as they descended the steps again,

2."you'll find that nothing whatever has been forgotten, when we make our start this afternoon."

3."I beg your pardon,"

2. said the Rat slowly, as he chewed a straw,

3. "but did I overhear you say something about 'we,' and 'start,' and 'this afternoon'?"

2. "Now, you dear good old Ratty,"

1. said Toad imploringly,

2. "don't begin talking in that stiff and sniffy sort of way, because you know you've got to come. I can't possibly manage without you, so please consider it settled, and don't argue—it's the one thing I can't stand. You surely don't mean to stick to your dull fusty old river all your life, and just live in a hole in a bank, and boat? I want to show you the world! I'm going to make an animal of you, my boy!"

3. "I don't care,"

1. said the Rat doggedly.

3. "I'm not coming, and that's flat. And I am going to stick to my old river, and live in a hole, and boat, as I've always done. And what's more, Mole's going to stick to me and do as I do, aren't you, Mole?"



Using Sounds to Paint a Picture.

In the absence of images, sounds can help to create vivid mental pictures. To achieve this, some sounds can be created using homemade instruments while others can be produced vocally through cue cards handed out to the audience. During live readings or recordings, each group will be responsible for creating different sound effects.

For instance, Group 1, who will be telling the story of "The Open Road," will create the sound of a steam train. Meanwhile, Group 2 will produce the sound of an automobile, and Group 3 will create the sound of a horse and cart. These are just a few examples of the various sound effects that each group will be responsible for.



Incorporating Games as Warm-Ups

While games will not be the primary focus of this class, they will be employed as a warm-up or end of class exercise if time permits. These games include:

- "It's a Hat, Isn't It?": A creative and highly enjoyable exercise that unleashes the actors' imaginations.
- "1-10": A simple exercise that is excellent for bringing focus to the beginning of the session.
- "To Bean or Not to Bean": A quirky, fun-filled exercise that encourages players to bring color, energy, emotion, and dynamism to their work. Participants are tasked with drawing an emotional state from a hat and reading the back of a baked beans tin or cereal box.
- "Sound FX Mimes": This game fosters teamwork, group awareness, and most importantly, vocal attack and modulation in performance.

Performance

Sharing stories with the world with
a Cost-Effective Solution



To keep costs low during this time of economic hardship, we will record our students' stories on-site rather than renting an expensive recording studio.

The audio will be edited and uploaded to our website within 14 days, where it will be featured on our podcast page as a limited audio season. You can listen to the stories on a pay-what-you-think basis or download them for 30 days.

After that, the audio pieces will be available for download at a fixed cost, but will always remain free to listen to on The Radioplay Hour. We might even arrange a live public reading for charity, but we'll discuss this with parents first if the opportunity arises and the costs can be covered.



Class details & payment options

Our classes are set for an 8-week rehearsal/class schedule, with each session running for 90 minutes. This timeframe allows us to read the three stories, engage in game play, sound effect rehearsals, and discussions, as well as bring in any special guests to help with the classes.

I chose to keep the 8-week schedule to avoid any conflicts with the first week back at school.

As mentioned on the first page class costs \$532.00 and to secure a spot, a non-refundable deposit of \$266.00 is required by 31st January, one week before classes begins.

The remaining balance can be paid off in four weekly instalments of \$66.50 or in full before the term ends on 27th March.

If you're interested in continuing with The Storytellers for Term 2, a 50% deposit will secure a spot before classes begin.

Term 2

24th April - 20th June

Little wizard stories of Oz by L. Frank Baum

L. Frank Baum wrote 9 stories involving the wonderful land of Oz! And here are some smaller ones that feature characters like Tik-Tock and Nome King, Princess Ozma and the Wizard himself, as well as The Scarecrow and Tin Woodsman!

Readers will be transported to a wondrous land and join these beloved characters on their unforgettable journey.

Term 4

2nd October - 13th December

A Christmas Ghost Story The Dolls Ghost by F. Marion Crawford

Finishing the year off with a LIVE storytelling event, watch & listen as students dressed as Victorian Era dolls bring the story of Nina, a broken doll, to life. Set in atmospheric London, this tale is full of spine-tingling scenes and a heart warming Christmas ending.

Term 3

17th July - 12th September

Sci fiction pulp from the 1940s

Zero Hour by Ray Bradbury

In term 3 we will be preparing a Halloween Horror to feature on The Radioplay Hour in October. In 1947, Ray Bradbury's sci-fi classic Zero Hour was first published in PLANET STORIES. The story takes place in a future where children's games about aliens become a reality when actual extraterrestrials arrive. Bradbury was an iconic sci-fi writer who inspired many fans and writers.

Sharing the World of Literature:

Sharing your love of reading with like-minded individuals is an excellent way to explore new authors and books while immersing yourself in different worlds.

Term and conditions

1. The Drama Merchant's Storytellers Class is not responsible for any loss, damage, or claim, including personal injury or the use of photographs, associated with a child's participation in the class. By accepting the terms, the liability is excluded to the fullest extent allowed by law.
2. I/we hereby release and forever discharge The Drama Merchant from any and all liability, loss and damage (including direct, indirect and consequential) or any other claim in anyway associated with the attendance of my child/children at The Storytellers class.
3. I/we acknowledge & understand that a 50% deposit is required before the start of the term, and I agree to make this payment prior to my child's participation in The Drama Merchants The Storytellers program. Payment options include bank transfer or credit card.
4. I/we acknowledge & understand that the remaining balance must be paid in full before the last class of the term, and prior to any end-of-term recording or performance with The Drama Merchant: The Storytellers. We accept payment through credit card or bank transfer.
5. Classes and rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm at C.W.A. Hall, 49 Ventura Street, Mermaid Beach. Additional time may be required as recording night approaches, but parents will be informed beforehand.
6. I/we acknowledge & understand that
The Drama Merchant, wants the parent / carer to make sure their child / children are fully committed to their classes. students who miss more than three sessions without an excused absence will be dismissed from the classes with No refund will be given.
7. I/we will provide costume/costume pieces if necessary.
8. I/we give permission for a child's voice to be used on The Drama Merchant website's limited audio season for 21 days via a Pay What You Think Scheme for family members, as well as on other audio platforms such as The Radioplay Hour, radio stations, Spotify, and Soundcloud without compensation unless agreed upon otherwise.
9. I/we acknowledge, The Drama Merchant has the right to refuse entry to anyone who poses a threat to staff or children, and a zero-tolerance policy for bullying or inappropriate language. Failure to comply results in immediate dismissal without refunds.
10. I/we consent to The Drama Merchant its officers, agents, employees, and proprietors for photographing, video recording, or creating digital/ audio recordings of the child/children and using them for marketing purposes on any medium, including the website and brochures.
11. I/we agree to collect my child from class promptly. In the event that I am running late, I will notify Nathan Schulz by sending a text message or leaving a message at 0412 263 281. I/we will also provide prior notification to The Drama Merchant of the person's name and contact information.



How to book a place!

If this document has provided you with a better understanding of what The Storytellers can offer, kindly visit The Drama Merchant website by [clicking here](#) to make a booking.