



## **SCHOOL INCURSIONS 2010**

The Helen O'Grady Drama Academy offers an extensive developmental drama curriculum which helps to fulfil the **Arts Outcome requirement** (*specifically Drama*) for your school.

**(See following pages for a detailed example of how our programme covered the requirements for Years 1 – 3 at Willetton Primary School, in Term 3, 2009.)**

Through the joy of drama, our programme can aid in the development of important life skills, including:

- **increased self-esteem**
- **ongoing confidence**
- **strong verbal communication**
- **improved social interaction.**

Developed in Perth, our highly acclaimed programme has been successfully operating for over 30 years. Our dynamic school incursions have been welcomed by many schools, both locally and internationally.

Following, are further details on how our programme can benefit teachers and students in your school. For more information, or to make a booking for your school for 2010, please contact us at any time, as follows:

Northern Suburbs – Principal, Justin Lawson  
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Southern Suburbs & Rockingham/Mandurah – Principal, Cheryl Marron  
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# What We Can Offer Schools

Our programme can be tailored to fit the students' needs. We offer incursions as follows:

- **Drama Workshops**  
Our teacher visits your school and conducts a workshop within school time. This can include each class in the school (from Kindy to Year 7), one at a time, across the whole day (or more than one day if necessary), or just selected classes within the school. Workshops can last from 30 to 60 minutes, depending upon the school timetable. All materials are provided and fees are paid per child.
- **Drama Courses**  
Our teacher visits your school, for consecutive weeks, and conducts the programme with one, or more, classes (from Kindy to Year 7). Courses can be run from 5 to 10 weeks of a term. Classes can last from 30 to 60 minutes, as required.
- **Drama Courses – Yearly Programme**  
Conducted during school hours, and in line with our after school classes across Perth, the yearly programme consists of four, 10 week terms and culminates in a short, scripted production at the end of Term 4.
- **School Talks**  
Our Principal can visit your school, or P&C meetings to talk to teachers and parents about our programme.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

***~Our programme covers most aspects of the  
K-10 Arts/Drama Syllabus~***

# Helen O'Grady Drama Academy

## Programme Overview

Please find below an overview of the curriculum areas students will be studying this term, followed by a list of the concepts, forms and processes from the **K-10 Syllabus Overview: The Arts/Drama** that they can be linked to:

- **Introduction and Conclusion Activities:**  
Introduction and conclusion activities involve the students in free, spontaneous improvisation.
  
- **Speech:**  
All aspects of speech training are linked to main lesson drama activities. Areas of speech covered this term include:
  - **Projection**
  - **Forward Placing**
  - **Jaw Exercises**
  - **Articulation**
  
- **Movement:**  
Our movement component helps students develop coordinative skill and an increased awareness of non verbal communication. Areas of movement covered this term include:
  - **Body, Space, Time and Weight Awareness**
  - **Partner and Group Work**
  - **Dance Drama**
  
- **Improvisation:**  
The main part of each lesson is creative, improvised drama. Through improvisation, the students learn about the structure and form of language.
  
- **Snippets:**  
Snippets are a form of dialogue development in which students work in pairs to develop a short piece of sequenced drama relating to a specific idea.

# **K-10 Syllabus Overview Links: The Arts/Drama (Years 1 – 3)**

Listed below are the content areas (Years 1 – 3) from The Arts/Drama syllabus component which can be linked to curriculum covered on the previous page. Please note that our programme caters for students between the ages of 3 – 17, with a 15 year cycle of curriculum. As such it can be used to support the syllabus for all year levels.

## **DRAMA CONCEPTS:**

**YEAR 1:** Voice, Movement, Space, Situation

**YEAR 2:** Voice, Movement, Space, Situation, Role, Audience

**YEAR 3:** Voice, Movement, Space, Situation, Role, Audience, Language

## **DRAMA FORMS AND STYLES:**

**YEAR 1:** Storytelling, Puppetry

**YEAR 2:** Storytelling, Puppetry, Process Drama

**YEAR 3:** Storytelling, Puppetry, Process Drama, Mime and mask, Tableau

## **DRAMA PROCESSES: PLAYMAKING:**

**YEAR 1/2:** Spontaneous and directed dramatic play, Interaction in role, Sequencing situation

**YEAR 3:** Spontaneous and directed dramatic play, Group work, Playbuilding

## **DRAMA PROCESSES: PERFORMING:**

**YEAR 1:** Safe practice, Movement skills and techniques, Voice skills and techniques, Using materials and objects in dramatic play

**YEAR 2/3:** Safe practice, Movement skills and techniques, Voice skills and techniques, Using materials and objects in dramatic play, Audience awareness

## **DRAMA PROCESSES: CRITICAL REFLECTION:**

**YEAR 1:** Spontaneous sharing of ideas and feelings about their own drama and the drama of others

**YEAR 2/3:** Strategies for responding to the drama of others, Strategies for reflecting on their own drama processes and products, Strategies for communicating opinions and feelings about drama

## **DRAMA PROCESSES: DRAMA IN CONTEXT**

**YEAR 1:** Experiencing drama around them

**YEAR 2/3:** Experiencing a range of drama forms, Recognition of drama from other times and places

# Meeting Assessment Guidelines

At the Helen O'Grady Drama Academy we are aware of the current curriculum changes taking place in West Australian Schools. We are liaising with the Curriculum Council and The Department of Education and Training to ensure that we understand the new standards being set by the impending National Curriculum.

The National Curriculum will require that students are allocated a 'grade' for Drama in Primary School and these will be allocated from a set of 'Stage Descriptors.'

For example,

"By the end of Year 2, an 'A' student in Drama should be able to..."

"By the end of Year 5, a 'C' in Drama will demonstrate..." etc.

The Helen O'Grady Drama Academy will assist teachers in making these judgements by providing a comprehensive in-school program that will deliver the curriculum necessary to meet these requirements.

Our curriculum "follows a spiral model in which the same concepts, processes and strategies are dealt with in increasingly complex ways as students develop. Progression is facilitated by the teaching of more complex elements and the use of more complex forms of drama as learning contexts."

(Department of Education and Training Western Australia, *Early Childhood: The Arts/Drama/Arts Practice: Arts Ideas, Arts Skills and Processes scope and sequence*, December 2007)

The Helen O'Grady curriculum allows this 'spiral model' to take place by providing students with the flexibility to work at their own level within a structured lesson. For example, across our different age levels, students participate in Creative Improvised Drama. The concepts presented are the same, but the complexity of the process and the strategies the students use (characterisation, voice techniques, stage awareness, etc.), are increased with the students capabilities.

Our aim is to support your teachers with a Drama program that removes the 'fear factor' from implementing and assessing The Arts Learning Outcomes. The program will be implemented with a minimum of fuss in a professional manner with in your school.