

# MYTHMAKERS TEACHERS' GUIDE

**We believe that all children in Auckland should see high quality theatre every year that they are in school, so our Mythmakers project brings exciting stories and artists direct to pupils and teachers in their communities.**

## MYTHMAKERS AND THE NEW ZEALAND CURRICULUM

Mythmakers shows are designed specifically for students in Year 3 – 8. Each show is supported by a downloadable Activity Pack that engages students with all aspects of the New Zealand Curriculum's key competencies:

- thinking
- using language, symbols, and texts
- managing self
- relating to others
- participating and contributing

With the help of teachers in the classroom a Mythmakers show can be an exciting learning experience. Each Activity Pack offers suggestions of follow-up activities to encourage students to reflect on what they've seen, express their opinions, and create their own dramas in response to the show. Preparation before a visit, and follow-up afterwards will greatly enhance the experience for students.

## BEFORE SEEING THE SHOW

Talk to your students about what to expect. Understanding their expectations will help you unpack their responses after the show.

### WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

- Read your class the synopsis in the Activity Pack and discuss what they are going to see.
- Talk about the title. Discuss in pairs what it means to them, and share with the rest of the class.
- Mythmakers stories are from Aotearoa, the Pacific and around the world. Where does this story come from? Use the show as an opportunity to research and celebrate another culture.

### WATCHING A PLAY

- For some children, this may be their first experience of live theatre.
- Discuss watching live performances. What do they think it will be like? Have they seen live performance before? If so, where?
- As members of an audience, what is their role in the show? We want children to feel relaxed and respond to the performance, and understand why they also need to listen to and respect the performers.

## AFTER SEEING THE SHOW

### RECALLING THE SHOW

An excellent activity after any performance is to encourage your students to recall what they have just experienced. A great place to start is by creating a memory map of the show. Focus on what the students saw and heard; what stood out most? What colours, sounds, pictures, words? What characters

do they remember? What events in the story? It may be useful to start brainstorming in small groups then bring everyone's ideas together. Create a chart with everyone's memories. Another useful recall activity is drawing favourite moments or characters. Display everyone's drawings to create a gallery about the show.

### EVALUATING THE EXPERIENCE

Reflecting on their experience helps children develop a critical response.

Use these questions as a starting point for reflection:

- What were the best things about this show?
- Did it remind you of anything you've seen or read before?
- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- What was the funniest /most exciting or scariest thing that happened?
- Were there any parts of the story you would change?
- How would you describe this show to someone who hadn't seen it?
- Did the show spark any new ideas?
- Do you think everyone in the audience liked the show? What makes you think that?

## WHAT WE PROVIDE

### Q&A FORUM

Mythmakers performances always end with a short Q&A Forum with the cast. This might include questions to stimulate the children's recall about the show, or the cast may teach a song or movement from the play. Prepare your students to contribute to the forum by guiding their noticing before the show. Ask them to watch out for things that excite them, and to ask about things that they want to know more about.

### POST-SHOW WORKSHOPS

We design workshops programmes for every Mythmakers show. In workshops we focus on key aspects of the performance, and encourage children to express themselves by creating their own dramas. **Workshops must be booked in advance.** Contact us to find out more.

### TEACHER SURVEY

It is vital for ATC Creative Learning to evaluate our work and we need your help! After the performance we will send a short online survey to the organising teacher at your school. We appreciate your help in filling out the survey too.

## CONTACT US

We love receiving feedback about Mythmakers! Please contact us with student reviews or drawings, or if there's anything you'd like to tell us about the programme.

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